

# **Community Issues Report**

*FIRST QUARTER 2010*

Meredith Corporation  
***WHNS FOX Carolina***

***04/5/10***

# **Meredith Corporation WHNS Fox Carolina**

## *COMMUNITY ISSUES*

1/1/10 – 4/30/10

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### **Consumer, Health & Safety**

An interest in knowing about events that impact our daily lives. A need for information about how to be wise shoppers of goods and services and how to live healthy and safe lives.

### **Crime**

A need to know about crime and law enforcement activities and a concern for personal safety.

### **Education**

A concern about the money and skills needed to improve schools and an interest in improving student's quality of education.

### **Environment**

A concern for how the environment is affected by human activity.

### **Government**

An interest in how government affects our personal lives

### **Jobs/Economy/Growth**

An interest in the local and national economic outlook and the impact growth has on our communities

### **Quality of Life**

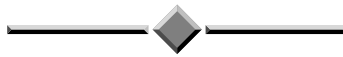
An interest in things that improve one's satisfaction with life.

The following pages list representative samples of program segments from The Ten O'clock Newscast, The News at 6:30 Newscast and The Morning Newscast during this quarter that respond to our ascertained issues. Each segment was 20 seconds to 3 minutes in length (except as otherwise reported).

The following pages also identify issue-responsive episodes of programs, which are listed under the appropriate issue.

WHNS also broadcasts public service announcements, news and weather cut-ins as needed to inform local community of breaking news and emergencies.

## *Attachments*



## *Consumer, Health & Safety*

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED  
FIRST QUARTER 2010**

Problem/Need: **CONSUMER, HEALTH & SAFETY**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Saturdays (airs weekly)	6:30am	TODAY'S HOMEOWNER

Description: A half-hour weekly television show that features information on how to maintain and improve your home, both inside and out. The approach to home improvement helps everyone from the experienced do-it-yourselfer to the first time homeowner. Projects are taken from start to finish in each weekly episode. (30:00)

January 19, 2010

A Southern California meat-packing firm has recalled some 864,000 pounds of ground beef that might be contaminated with E. coli. The Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service said Monday that no illnesses have been reported from the products sold by Montebello-based Huntington Meat Packing Inc. under the Huntington, Imperial Meat Co. and El Rancho brands. The affected beef was sold to distribution centers, restaurants and hotels in California between Feb. 19 and May 15, 2008, and between Jan 5. and Jan. 15, 2010. Huntington did not return a phone message. Officials said department personnel discovered the problem during a food safety assessment.

January 19, 2010

A Barbados-based company on Tuesday recalled about 635,000 cribs sold by Kmart, Sears, Wal-Mart and other stores after the death of a 6-month-old boy and multiple reports of injuries. The Consumer Product Safety Commission announced the recall of 20 models of Dorel Asia cribs with both drop sides and fixed front rails. Some of the Chinese- and Vietnamese-made cribs were recalled because their drop sides can detach, creating a space where a child can be trapped and suffocate or strangle. A 6-month-old boy from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, strangled after getting trapped in the crib when the drop-side hardware broke. His parents were using the crib after trying to repair it themselves. A statement from Dorel describes the circumstances leading to this death as "highly unusual," because the crib was known to be broken and had been held together with duct tape, according to investigators of the incident. Some of the cribs were also recalled because a child can be trapped if one of the slats is broken or damaged. This damage can occur while the crib is in use as well as when it is being put together, taken apart or shipped. CPSC and Dorel Asia SRL have received 31 reports of incidents involving drop-side cribs. There are six reports of incidents of children being trapped between the mattress and the drop side, including three reports of bruises. The agency and company have also received 36 reports of broken slats, including two reports of trapped children and seven reports of bruises and scratches. "Hundreds of thousands of Dorel Asia cribs have been properly assembled and used safely without incident," the company said in a statement. "At Dorel Asia there is nothing more important than a baby's health and safety." To receive a free repair kit to prevent this hazard, contact Dorel Asia at 866-762-2304. More information is available online at <http://www.dorel-asia.com>. (This version CORRECTS that recall came after the death of the boy, not prompted by death of boy.)

January 20, 2010

Workers are sanitizing Harrah's Cherokee Casino after 200 people became ill at the facility. Officials at the casino said that those 200 people, which include both guests and employees, reported nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. They said that about 90,000 people have passed through the casino since the illnesses were reported. The Jackson County Health Department said it is an outbreak of gastrointestinal distress. Officials are running tests to determine what kind of virus may have caused the outbreak. Casino officials said they are working with the Health Department to stop the illness from spreading.

January 22, 2010

Toyota Motor Corp. built its reputation in the U.S. as a maker of safe and dependable vehicles, but the quality of the Japanese automaker's fleet continues to be tarnished by serious safety recalls. Toyota said Thursday it is recalling 2.3 million vehicles in the U.S. to fix accelerator pedals with mechanical problems that could cause them to become stuck. The announcement comes just months after it recalled 4.2 million vehicles due to gas pedals that could become trapped under floor mats, causing sudden acceleration. That problem was the cause of several crashes, including some fatalities.

Toyota said Thursday's recall is due to potential problems with the gas pedal mechanism that can cause the accelerator to become stuck -- regardless of whether the vehicle contains a floor mat. Toyota said in certain rare cases, the gas pedal mechanism wears down, causing the accelerator to become harder to press, slower to return or, in some cases, stuck.

In a letter to federal safety officials dated Thursday, Toyota said the problem appeared to be related to the potential build-up of condensation on sliding surfaces in the accelerator system that helps drivers push down or release the gas pedal.

Toyota spokesman John Hanson said the automaker does not yet have a solution to the latest problem but is working to develop one. Toyota will soon be contacting owners directly about the recall, he said. The recall affects the 2009-2010 RAV4, the 2009-2010 Corolla, the 2009-2010 Matrix, the 2005-2010 Avalon, the 2007-2010 Camry, the 2010 Highlander, the 2007-2010 Tundra and the 2008-2010 Sequoia. Of these, the Avalon, Camry and Tundra models -- encompassing about 1.7 million vehicles -- also were included in the previous gas pedal recall. Their accelerator pedals could be at risk both of becoming trapped under floor mats and becoming stuck due to mechanical problems. Hanson said the company is unaware of any accidents or injuries due to the gas pedal problems associated with Thursday's recall, but could not rule it out for sure. He said the recall "came together very quickly." He added that all of the vehicles involved in the latest recall contain a gas pedal system that comes from a single supplier. He declined, however, to identify the supplier or say whether Toyota would continue doing business with the supplier. "Responsibility for this in the end is ours," he said. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said in a statement that the problem is "a serious safety issue and we are pleased Toyota is taking immediate action to address it." Toyota said drivers in the recalled vehicles whose gas pedals become stuck should firmly apply their brakes, drive the car to a safe location, shut off the engine and contact the nearest Toyota dealer. Drivers who experience the problem should not pump their brakes, Toyota said. Toyota's last recall, announced in November, was blamed for several crashes, including an accident involving a Lexus that accelerated to more than 120 mph before crashing in San Diego, killing four people. It was the sixth-largest recall ever in the U.S.

January 29, 2010

The Associated Press has learned that Toyota is sending new gas pedal systems to car factories rather than dealerships who want the parts to take care of millions of customers whose pedals may stick. Toyota spokesman Brian Lyons confirms information in a company e-mail obtained by the AP that says parts were shipped to factories. Lyons says that's how the company normally distributes parts. But some dealers say they should get the parts first because they now have no way to fix the pedals on any of the 4.2 million recalled vehicles affecting eight U.S. models. Toyota has halted production and sales of the models, including the best-selling Camry sedan. Lyons said Toyota did not send the parts to dealers because it has not decided whether to have the systems in the recalled vehicles repaired or replaced. The company on Thursday presented a remedy to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and it is awaiting a decision before proceeding. "We're not ready to launch this program yet," Lyons said, adding that letters must be sent to customers whose vehicles were recalled and service technicians must be trained on whatever solution the company ultimately decides. He said he did not know if any parts had been shipped from factories to parts depots, which is the next step in the process, but dealerships don't have them. Engineers and other workers were up all night Thursday getting the process ready, he said. The company has said its highest priority is fixing the pedals for existing customers. "Nothing is more important to Toyota than doing the right thing for our customers -- and restoring their confidence in the safety of our vehicles," Toyota said in a statement. But dealers and customers were unhappy with the delays in getting parts. Earl Stewart, owner of a Toyota dealership in North Palm Beach, Fla., said his service technicians might not know the details of how to fix the gas pedal systems, but they know to install new ones, and the parts should have gone to dealers rather than factories. "That's absolutely stupid," he said. "It makes no sense at all." He said Toyota may be trying to save money by using a less-expensive repair on the millions of vehicles that already have been sold, and using the new parts to restart factories that have been closed while it irons out the problem. "That just doesn't wash well with the customers out there driving these vehicles," he said. "I think at this point you throw cost to the wind and do everything you can to rebuild your brand and your image." Toyota owners were both confused about what to do with their cars and angry that they didn't have any answers on when a fix would be available. "I've got a \$30,000 vehicle and they don't know how to fix it," said Johnathan Jones, a 30-year-old salesman from Fort Mitchell, Ala., who said he won't put his 10-year-old twins in his 2009 Toyota Tundra. "To me, it's a big safety hazard with my children." The U.S. House Oversight and Government Reform

Committee is launching an investigation into the problems with Toyota's accelerator pedal systems. It has scheduled a Feb. 4 hearing entitled, "Toyota Gas Pedals: Is the Public at Risk?"

February 3, 2010

Concern about the heavy metal cadmium in jewelry grew Tuesday as a California environmental group said new testing of adult necklaces and bracelets bought at three leading retailers, including Saks Fifth Avenue and Aeropostale, detected high levels of the toxic material -- as much as 75 percent by weight. One of the pieces was made in China and another was made in India. Labeling on a black-colored link necklace, purchased at Saks for \$69.99, did not indicate where it was made. Based on the results of its testing, the Center for Environmental Health said it would seek a ban on cadmium in all jewelry. The center said it began lab testing adult jewelry for cadmium after an Associated Press investigation reported last month that pieces of cheap children's jewelry imported from China contained levels of cadmium of up to 91 percent of their total content. In response to an AP inquiry about the adult jewelry findings, the parent company of Catherine's, a national chain of plus-size stores, said Tuesday that it was pulling a bracelet with a pink "breast cancer awareness" charm that was found to have high levels of cadmium from all 460 of its stores. The item, made in China, was bought for \$6.99. Saks Inc. spokeswoman Julia Bentley said only: "We received a letter from the CEH today and are reviewing and evaluating this matter." Aeropostale did not respond to requests for comment after tests showed that a circular pendant on a necklace bought at the retailer for \$7.99 also revealed a relatively high level of cadmium, according to the center. The piece was made in India. The Center for Environmental Health said it was pursuing a lawsuit under a California law it used to set stringent limits on lead in both adult and children's jewelry in the state, starting in 2006. The settlement of that lawsuit was pivotal in national efforts to reduce lead levels in all metal jewelry sold in the United States. There is no limit under federal law on cadmium in jewelry sold in the U.S. In the latest testing, besides the three adult jewelry pieces, a \$7.90 cupcake-shaped pendant on a necklace bought at the 'tween store Justice also had a high level of cadmium, the center said. "Our legal action sends a strong signal to industry that we will not stand by while they play toxic flavor of the month with jewelry," said Michael Green, the group's executive director. "Cadmium is toxic at any age. There is no excuse for cadmium in any jewelry, and we intend to eliminate this health threat to women and children," he said. The center's testing had revealed cadmium in adult jewelry dating to at least September 2008, but its focus had been on lead until the AP investigation. Gayle M. Coolick, a vice president for Charming Shoppes, Inc., of Bensalem, Pa., said it was pulling the breast cancer awareness charm and bracelet from all its Catherine's stores, not just those in California. "As Charming Shoppes and its subsidiaries do not market or sell children's items, and as the (Consumer Product Safety Commission) has warned against the use of cadmium in children's products, Charming Shoppes has not tested for this metal for its products marketed and sold to adults," she said. "It is Charming Shoppes' intent to follow all state and federal requirements with regard to product safety." In its analysis, the Center for Environmental Health did an initial screening of 97 jewelry items with a technology called XRF, which uses X-rays to estimate how much of a metal is in an item. Alarming high levels of cadmium were detected in seven pieces. Four of these were sent to a Chicago-based lab, Stat Analysis, for detailed analysis, with the other three planned for later analysis, according to center spokesman Charles Margulis. Cadmium is used primarily in rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries, as well as in pigments, electroplating and plastic. Cadmium is a known carcinogen, particularly when it is inhaled in a factory or other workplace. It also can cause serious problems with kidneys and bones, diseases that typically are caused by cadmium that has been ingested in contaminated food or tobacco. The exact risks to adults aren't clear because typically the metal takes long-term exposure to cause the diseases. Children's jewelry has been of particular concern because kids bite and suck on jewelry -- something far less common among adults. Microscopic amounts of cadmium also could be shed onto the hands, and then ingested either by eating or putting a contaminated finger to the mouth. A spokesman for the Fashion Jewelry Trade Association said the group did not have access to the Center for Environmental Health data, so it could not comment in detail. Executive director Michael Gale did say that the group remains "confident in the safety of our members' jewelry products." He added, "Based on available data, cadmium in jewelry does not pose health risks to adults or children." The California environmental group sent notices late Monday to the four retailers that it intends to sue based on its lab test results; under California law, no lawsuit can be filed for 60 days, during which time state or local prosecutors can decide to take over the case. The four companies are now parties to what is often called the Burlington settlement -- an agreement based on a Center for Environmental Health lawsuit under which major national retailers agreed to reduce levels of lead in jewelry. That settlement was significant because it included the first widely observed limits for lead on adult items. Under California legislation passed in 2006, the upper limit for lead in adult jewelry is far higher than what is allowed for children's jewelry because the health concerns were not as pronounced. Within hours of AP's Jan. 10 report on high levels of cadmium in children's jewelry, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission launched an investigation. The next day, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. announced it was pulling three of the contaminated items from store shelves. The Consumer Product Safety Commission has since advised parents to throw away all cheap children's metal jewelry and federal lawmakers have

proposed legislation to ban cadmium in children's jewelry. Last week, the Consumer Product Safety Commission announced a recall of two of the items sold at Walmart stores.

February 12, 2010

In public, Toyota is running apologetic TV ads and vowing to win back customers' trust. Behind the scenes, the besieged carmaker is trying to learn all it can about congressional investigations, maybe even steer them if it can. It's part of an all-out drive by the world's biggest auto manufacturer to redeem its once unassailable brand -- hit anew on Tuesday as Toyota's global recall ballooned to 8.5 million cars and trucks. The day's safety recall of 440,000 of its flagship Prius and other hybrids, plus a Tokyo news conference where the company's president read a statement in English pledging to "regain the confidence of our customers," underscored a determination to keep buyers' faith from sinking to unrecoverable depths. In Washington, facing congressional inquiries and government investigations, Toyota through its lawyers and lobbyists is working full-speed to salvage its reputation. The confidential strategy -- Toyota will say little publicly about its efforts -- includes efforts to sway upcoming hearings on Capitol Hill and is based on experiences by companies that have survived similar consumer and political crises -- and those that haven't. Rep. Bart Stupak, D-Mich, said Toyota representatives visited his offices seeking to learn all they could. "They're probing us. 'What are you going to ask us, where are you going with this whole thing?'" said Stupak, who is chairman of a House subcommittee looking into Toyota's problems. Toyota, which reported spending more than \$4 million on lobbying last year, declined to discuss details of its plans. The company has "beefed up our team" by hiring additional lobbyists, lawyers and public relations experts to "work with regulators and lawmakers collaboratively towards a successful recall effort, ensuring proper, diligent compliance," spokeswoman Cindy Knight said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. Rough headlines for Toyota continued Tuesday. In other developments: --State Farm, the largest U.S. auto insurer, said it had informed federal regulators late in 2007 about growing reports of unexpected acceleration in Toyotas. That disclosure raised new questions about whether the government missed clues about problems. Reps. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., and Stupak wrote insurance executives on Tuesday seeking information on any warnings they may have provided the government about unintended acceleration in Toyotas. --Congressional investigators cited growing evidence that not all the causes of Toyota's acceleration problems have been identified. A staff memo from the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which had planned an oversight hearing for Wednesday, said there was substantial evidence that remedies such as redesigned floor mats have failed to solve problems. The hearing was postponed until Feb. 24 due to snow in Washington. --Federal safety officials said they were examining complaints from Toyota Corolla owners about steering problems. Toyota faces at least two congressional hearings besides Stupak's, including the one delayed by snow. Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee and a longtime supporter of Toyota, said his panel will hold a hearing on March 2 after the two by the House. Their focus: floor mats that get caught under accelerators, sticky gas pedals and brake problems, and what the company and federal regulators knew about them. Professionals who have waged major damage-control struggles say the best strategy for Toyota mixes apology, openness, details about a specific fix -- plus a little help from friends on Capitol Hill. In recent days, American TV viewers have seen ads in which a soft-spoken announcer talks about Toyota's dedication to safety and its customers. "We're working around the clock to ensure we build vehicles of the highest quality, to restore your faith in our company," one spot says. Toyota is expected to turn to its natural allies -- lawmakers from states with Toyota plants or offices, which include Texas, Missouri, Indiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky and West Virginia. Republicans are considered especially likely to back the company, whose workers are not unionized. Toyota has been encouraging dealers to contact local members of Congress, according to Bailey Wood, spokesman for the National Automobile Dealers Association. About 60 of the 1,200 U.S. Toyota dealers planned to visit Washington this week, weather permitting, said Cody Lusk, president of the American International Automobile Dealers Association. Their message: Toyota employs 34,000 people in the U.S. and accounts for 164,000 other jobs at dealerships and parts suppliers. "They provide a lot of jobs, a lot of the tax base, and they want members to know," Lusk said. Toyota also flew 23 workers from plants around the country to Capitol Hill to meet with lawmakers' staffs, emphasizing that the people who make the parts and build the vehicles care about quality. One worker who tests cars and trucks said he takes it personally that he never found the gas pedal problem. "I feel that I failed customers by not finding this issue," said Jim Shuker, who works at Toyota's Arizona Proving Grounds in Wittmann, Ariz. "We were not able to duplicate it." Friendly legislators can limit the duration of congressional hearings and ask favorable questions that would give Toyota officials a chance to tell their side of the story. Their goal would compress unfavorable news stories about the hearings to as few days as possible, while making sure the company avoids being confrontational. "You're being called up there so Congress can beat you up a little bit," said Gene Grabowski, who chairs Levick Strategic Communications' crisis and litigation practice. "By the time it gets to a hearing, you're there to take some punishment, to listen to their concerns." In the meantime, Akio Toyoda, Toyota president, wrote an opinion column in Tuesday's Washington Post in which he promised an outside review of company operations, better responses to customer complaints and improved communication with federal officials. The Toyota recalls are the highest-profile congressional probe of the auto industry since a slew of deadly accidents prompted the Firestone tire recall in 2000. Most of the tires were on popular Ford Explorer sport



utility vehicles. Both companies suffered damage to their reputations, but both bounced back. Ford was proactive, briefing officials with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Congress and stressing that the safety of their customers was paramount. Firestone offered to replace its tires for free. Things didn't go as well for the manufacturer at the center of a salmonella scare, Peanut Corporation of America. The company's products were linked to nine deaths and hundreds of cases of food poisoning, and it badly mishandled congressional hearings that showed the company shipped its products even after tests revealed they were tainted with bacteria.

#### Recalled Toyota Vehicles:

<b>Toyota recalled a small number of 2010 model year Tacomas to fix potential problems with their drive shaft that could cause the pickups to lose control. The recall involves 8,000 trucks. Affected model:</b>		
oma 2010 models		
<b>Toyota announced in February 2010 the recall of 437,000 hybrid Prius cars around the world. The cars have a problem with the braking system. Affected models include:</b>		
Highlander 2008-2010 models	Highlander 2008-2010 models	Corolla 2009-2010 models
Highlander 2008-2010 models	Corolla 2009-2010 models	Venza 2009-2010 models
Highlander 2008-2010 models	Matrix 2009-2010 models	
Venza 2009-2010 models	Matrix 2009-2010 models	
Pontiac Vibe 2009-2010 models		
<b>On Jan. 21, 2010, the Toyota recalled 2.3 million vehicles to correct sticking accelerator pedals on specific models. Affected models include:</b>		
RAV4 2009-2010 models	Corolla 2009-2010 models	Corolla 2009-2010 models
RAV4 2009-2010 models	Corolla 2009-2010 models	Matrix 2009-2010 models
RAV4 2009-2010 models	Avalon 2005-2010 models	
Matrix 2009-2010 models	Avalon 2005-2010 models	
Camry 2007-2010 models	Highlander 2010 models	
Tundra 2007-2010 models	Sequoia 2008-2010 models	
<b>In November 2009, Toyota issued a recall because of the potential for an unsecured or incompatible driver's floor mat to interfere with the accelerator pedal and cause it to get stuck in the wide-open position. Affected models include:</b>		
Toyota Camry 2007-2010	Avalon 2005-2010 models	Avalon 2005-2010 models
Toyota Camry 2007-2010	Avalon 2005-2010 models	Prius 2004-2009 models
Toyota Camry 2007-2010	Tacoma 2010 models	
Prius 2004-2009 models	Tacoma 2010 models	
Tundra 2007-2010 models	Lexus ES350 2007-2010 models	
Lexus IS250 2006-2010 models	Lexus IS350 2006-2010 models	

February 16, 2010

A sinkhole in Hart County shut down one lane on Interstate 85 southbound early Wednesday morning. The hole appeared in the emergency lane near a guard rail about a mile from the Georgia - South Carolina state line. Transportation officials shut down the far right lane of the interstate while repairs are completed. The cause of sinkhole was not immediately released.

February 23, 2010

State health officials said that a stomach virus is quickly spreading across South Carolina. The Department of Health and Environmental Control said that the state has seen twice the normal number of Norovirus cases so far this year. The Norovirus usually causes vomiting or diarrhea for a day or two. It is spread easily, especially in places with a lot of people like schools and nursing homes. Doctors said that the best way to fight the virus is to frequently wash hands and make sure shared surfaces like doorknobs and handrails in public places are properly cleaned often. DHEC said that most people recover from the virus without medical treatment, but anyone with symptoms that persist should go to the doctor.

February 23, 2010

Toyota's president says the automaker compromised quality by growing too quickly in the U.S., but it will take steps to improve quality control. Toyota President Akio Toyoda will deliver the remarks Wednesday to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. The prepared testimony was released ahead of time. The head of Toyota's U.S. sales arm, as well as outside safety experts and Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, are testifying before Congress on Tuesday. Toyota's president will tell Congress that the automaker grew too quickly in recent years, at times pursuing sales volume over safety and quality. He said the company plans to establish a quality center in the U.S. and hire an executive focused on product safety.

March 5, 2010

A cruise ship that sailed out of South Carolina has reported more passengers with a stomach bug. The Post and Courier of Charleston reported that the Celebrity Mercury has had 55 of its nearly 1,900 passengers fall ill since it left Charleston on Feb. 27. Cruise line spokeswoman Cynthia Martinez did not immediately respond to an e-mail message early Friday seeking more information. More than 400 passengers and crew members became ill during a cruise that ended in Charleston on Feb. 26. The ship's departure on the current cruise was delayed by a day to allow the crew to sanitize the ship. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said tests showed last month's outbreak was caused by norovirus. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and stomach cramps.

March 8, 2010

A fire marshal said that two Spartanburg County residents did not call for help during a house fire because they were afraid they would have to pay for the firefighters. The Herald-Journal of Spartanburg reported two people used a garden hose to fight a fire at their Spartanburg County home and inhaled some smoke in the effort. They refused medical treatment. Spartanburg Fire Marshal Mike Julazadeh said that the residents were confused by news stories on possible fees for fire service in neighboring Cherokee County. Officials in Cherokee County are killing the fee they had added to help volunteer fire departments bill insurance companies. Julazadeh emphasized that there is no charge to call 911 to report a fire or for emergency response. He said that Friday's fire was caused by unattended cooking.

March 9, 2010

Publix Super Markets, which has more than 1,000 stores in five Southern states, has voluntarily recalled four kinds of seasoning mixes that may possibly be contaminated with salmonella. Publix said that it has taken the store-brand mixes off of its shelves. Shoppers may return them for a full refund. The grocery store operator said late Monday that the mixes were made with hydrolyzed vegetable protein supplied by Basic Food Flavors, which is based in Las Vegas. Consumers who eat products tainted with salmonella could suffer serious and sometimes fatal infections, particularly young children, frail or elderly persons and others with weakened immune systems. Spokeswoman Maria Brous said that there have been no reported cases of illness with these products. Visit [publix.com](http://publix.com) for more information on the store's recalls.

March 9, 2010

Nature's Variety has expanded its recall of chicken-flavored pet food because of concerns over salmonella. The Lincoln, Neb.-based company said Monday that the raw, frozen food is being recalled because it could be contaminated with salmonella. The recall includes three-pound packages of chicken medallions, six-pound packages of chicken patties and two-pound packages of chicken chubs. Initially, the company recalled only packages with a best-by date of Nov. 10, 2010. Now packages with best-by dates of Oct. 29 and Nov. 9, 2010, are also being recalled. Salmonella can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections, especially in young children, the elderly and those with weakened immune systems. Pets can also become ill if they consume the bacteria.

March 9, 2010

Customers at Michael's Pizzeria in Easley can get hot food served outside with a cool pitcher of beer. That's because Michael's sits on private property, where consumption of alcoholic beverages outside the restaurant is allowed. However, thanks to a vote by the City Council on Monday night, restaurants all over the city will be allowed to serve alcohol outside with a meal. "If people want to have a cold beer while they eat dinner, then they should be allowed to," said Don Drennen, a customer at the pizzeria. "If they don't want to, that's fine, too." During Monday night's City Council meeting, council members passed an ordinance that will now allow outdoor cafes throughout city limits. The new ordinance means that if a business owner gets a permit and sidewalks meet requirements, customers can have a drink outside as they sit and have a meal. Several people who attended the meeting were not happy with the council's vote. There were also hundreds who signed a petition against the ordinance. "We just don't want the alcoholic beverages to be able to come outside into the public areas where we have our families," said Rev. Scott Willis, Piedmont Baptist Association's morals director. The new ordinance could affect businesses like Bleu Voodoo, a new restaurant in downtown Easley. "As far as to have the opportunity to bring new industry, new business to downtown Easley, this may be the step we need to take," said owner David Wingard. Wingard and his business partner, Donna Pace, said that right now they do not have any plans to set up tables outside, but they would like the option. Four council members, Brian Garrison, Dave Watson, Kim Valentin and Mayor Larry Bagwell, voted for the ordinance. The three council members who voted against the measure were Chris Mann, Libby Dodson and Thomas Wright.

March 16, 2010

When you walk into a convenience store, you may find beer in a cooler or wine on the shelves. Now, alcohol could soon be sold at a familiar discount store -- Dollar General. Administrators with discount store chain said on Tuesday that they've filed an application to sell beer and wine in some stores in Greenville. "It will be fine, I don't think it's a big deal," said Octavios Young, a Dollar General shopper. "If it's discounted, that's even better." Some shoppers said that they are upset that the store is selling the alcoholic beverages. Other shoppers said they do not know what some are all stirred up about. "I think it's OK, as long as they have the proper ID," said Carmen Blunt as she left the store. "No minors. No children." Right now, you can find beer and wine at convenience stores and grocery stores. Some Dollar General stores in states like Tennessee are already selling alcohol. Company administrators said nothing has been finalized and they have not decided which stores in the area could begin selling beer and wine.

March 16, 2010

An ordinance is on the table of the Greenwood City Council that would ban the sale of alcohol from 2 to 6 a.m. in the city. The new proposal comes just two weeks after the Greenwood County Council passed a similar ordinance for unincorporated areas. Mayor Welborn Adams said that the ordinance would require all bars and clubs in the city to close at 2 a.m. He said that the high support against the proposal Monday night led the other six council members to table the issue. "They're going to hurt my business," said Stephen Harrington, one bar owner. "It's not right to say you can't serve and you have to have everybody out at 2 a.m. I still have a full kitchen. I can serve food." Adams said that city police have to deal with things like shootings, stabbings, vandalism, fights and drug-related activities at these establishments. He said that is why he is pushing so hard for the ordinance. The council will review the ordinance again next month at its work session on Monday, April 5. It could come up for a vote again at the regular meeting on Monday, April 19.

March 17, 2010

If you go to Spanky's Backyard BBQ in Six Mile you can find ribs, mac'n'cheese and, of course, pork on the menu. Soon beer and wine could be added. If that happens, the owners could be the first in the town's history to sell alcohol. "Six Mile itself has never served any alcoholic beverages ever and there's no law against it," said Lisa Edmondson, co-owner of the restaurant. Edmondson and her husband filed an application for a license to serve beer and wine. "All we want is somebody to have a beer and enjoy that with their barbecue," Edmondson said. There have been some complaints from others in the community. More than 12 people have filed protests, and the Rev. Chris Gray, of King's Grove Baptist Church, wrote a letter. "Six Mile has always been what we call a dry town," Gray said. "We just want to keep our community as much as possible crime-free and safe for our families." Gray said he is taking a stand against selling alcohol at Spanky's Backyard BBQ. "We're praying for him

and we do not desire for his business to fail," Gray said. "We want his business to flourish. But we want his business to flourish in an area that supports the values and vision of what the people of Six Mile have." Bill Edmondson, co owner of Spanky's, said Gray has nothing to worry about. "I'm going to train all my people," Bill Edmondson said. "I mean it's not going to be like a honky-tonk, and I think that's what a lot of people think it's going to be." Edmondson said he just wants customers to enjoy themselves. "It doesn't matter whether they come in and have a beer or they come in and have sweet tea, I'm not going to sit them at the table and say here have a beer," he said. "I mean, it's up to them." Many of those who have filed protests do not live in Six Mile. There will be a hearing in Columbia in a couple of weeks to decide if the owner will be granted the license to sell beer and wine.

March 18, 2010

A cruise liner hit by an outbreak of stomach illness for the third trip in a row has returned to port in South Carolina. Passengers began disembarking as the sun rose over downtown Charleston on Thursday morning. The company said 364 of the more than 1,800 passengers on the Celebrity Mercury became ill on the cruise, which left March 8. It has been undergoing cleaning at sea and will be cleaned again in Charleston. One of those who got sick was 61-year-old Linda McNeil, of Hendersonville, N.C. She and her husband had heard about the earlier illnesses in the Mercury, but were not going to cancel what was their first cruise. McNeil said that even though she was sick for a day or so, it would not discourage her from cruising again. Tests linked the first outbreak to the common norovirus.

March 23, 2010

Police have detonated a package that prompted the evacuation of an Asheville neighborhood on Thursday afternoon. Investigators said that the package was found by the owner of the Johnson Siler Mobile Home Park at 28 Rock Hill Place at about 3 p.m. Police said that the owner was cleaning out a trailer in the park that had been abandoned for about two years when he found a crate that contained what appeared to be four vials of nitroglycerin. They said the man moved the crate up the street away from most of the trailers and called police. The hazardous materials team of the police department dug a small pit away from the trailer park and detonated the crate in the hole. The discovery led to the evacuation of the surrounding area, but residents have since been allowed to return to their homes. Nitroglycerin is used in the manufacturing of explosives, including dynamite. Police said they are still trying to determine from where the nitroglycerin originated.

March 29, 2010

U.S. transit agencies beefed up security as a precaution Monday following the suicide bombing in Moscow's subway system, sending more police into stations and having officers conduct random inspections of rail yards. In New York, caravans of police vehicles were dispatched to transit hubs, and officers assigned to subways overnight were held in place so they overlapped with the day tour. Special units distinguished by their special black uniforms, helmets and body armor also were assigned to transit facilities. In Washington, D.C., Metro police were conducting random inspections of stations and rail yards, officials said. Atlanta's public transit system said its police department was increasing the number of officers and patrols throughout the system. Russian authorities said two women blew themselves up in Moscow on Monday in a subway jam-packed with rush-hour passengers, killing dozens. They blamed the carnage on rebels from the Caucasus region. The federal government did not immediately make any recommendations for increased security at mass transit systems, but authorities were monitoring the situation, a U.S. official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations. Caucasus Islamic separatists tend to be focused on targets in the region, primarily Russia, and are not generally considered a threat to U.S. domestic interests. In Chicago, the city police department's public transportation section and Chicago Transit Authority personnel were watching closely for any suspicious activity or behavior, said CTA spokeswoman Kim Myles. Representatives of transit agencies in Boston and Philadelphia said they believed their normal security practices were vigilant enough to protect the riding public. The New York Police Department issued a statement saying it was increasing coverage of the city's subway system as a precaution "in response to the Moscow bombings." The city's Metropolitan Transportation Authority acknowledged heightened security, but declined to provide details. The agency is in charge of New York City buses and subways, as well as suburban trains, and bridges and tunnels. New York City "did ramp up our coverage a little bit this morning" after officials learned of the Moscow bombing, said Mayor Michael Bloomberg. "We change it every day, and for security reasons obviously we're not going to tell anybody what we're doing," Bloomberg said. "But you can rest assured we have great interest in what goes on around the world." In Manhattan, where the public has grown accustomed to increased security after the 2001 terror attacks, many people said they hadn't even noticed the added measures. "I don't think it poses a threat here now," said Carlos Rivera, 44, of Newark, N.J., who commutes to New York City daily and works in sales. "Every day, I see the NYPD out here. I see the dogs. I can't let it affect my life right now," said Rivera. "I don't think about

terrorism. I only think about it when I hear about it. Other than that, it never enters my mind." Andrew Davis, 24, who was catching a train home to Morristown, N.J., said he feels safe and didn't notice any increased security. John Villegas, who said he used to work near the World Trade Center, did sense the heightened security. "I'm a little wary," Villegas, 48, said at Pennsylvania Station as he waited for a train home to Woodbridge, N.J. "I do not feel safe right now. It's a little scary."

*Attachments*



*Crime*

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED  
FIRST QUARTER 2010**

Problem/Need: **CRIME**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Saturdays	8:00pm	COPS
Saturdays (airs weekly)	8:30pm	COPS
Monday – Friday	1:00pm	COPS
Monday – Friday	1:30pm	COPS

Description: COPS follows law enforcement officers as they answer calls and deal with the subjects and victims involved in the complaints and crimes. (30:00)

Saturdays (airs weekly)	9:00pm	AMERICA'S MOST WANTED
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Description: AMERICA'S MOST WANTED is hosted by John Walsh. The show profiles fugitives and wanted criminals who are being sought by federal, state, or local authorities. The program gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. (60:00)

Saturdays (airs weekly)	2:30am	MISSING
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Description: Missing is a weekly half-hour reality series featuring actual cases of missing individuals, both adult and juvenile, from across the United States. (30:00)

Monday – Sunday	10:00 pm	FOX CAROLINA'S MOST WANTED
Monday – Friday	5:00a-9:00am	

Description: The FOX Carolina's Most Wanted airs during the Ten O'clock News on various nights Monday thru Sunday and The Morning News Monday thru Friday. Each segment profiles locally wanted criminals and gives viewers a phone number to call to provide information. Each segment is 45 seconds.

January 2, 2010

The Mauldin Police Department is searching for a man who officers said assaulted a teen at Sunset Park Friday. Investigators said they received an anonymous 911 call from someone saying they had just severely injured a young girl at the park. Officers responding to the scene said they found an unconscious teen in the park. Police told FOX Carolina News that upon further investigation they determined that the girl was assaulted by an unknown man who regularly visits the park. Authorities described the man as black, about 6 feet tall and weighing about 180 to 190 pounds. They said he has a dark complexion with a full beard and goatee. Investigators said he was last seen wearing a tan knee-length jacket, black leather gloves and a black hat. A forensic artist with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division was contacted and produced a sketch of the man. Anyone who can identify the man or who may have information about the incident is urged to call the Mauldin Police Department at 864-289-8900. Police said the man is considered to be dangerous and anyone who comes in contact with him should notify police immediately by dialing 911.

January 6, 2010

Investigators said 16-year-old Pearl Brown made up the story that she was attacked by a man in a Mauldin park on Friday morning. Police said Brown called 911 and staged the crime scene and her injuries. Police said that Pearl Brown claimed a man

attacked her at about 9 a.m. at Sunset Park. When police arrived on the scene they said they found Brown at a picnic shelter. Police received a 911 call from someone claiming to have attacked a girl in the park. Caller: "I think I just killed a girl. She's in Sunset Park." Dispatcher: "Sunset Park? What happened?" Caller: "She wouldn't let me touch her. I just thought she was pretty." Dispatcher: "Who am I speaking with?" Caller: "I can't tell you all that. Just come get her, please." The girl who claims she was the victim of the attack talked with FOX Carolina on Monday about it. "The man in a tan jacket came up behind me and he scared me and he told me that pretty girls shouldn't cry," said Brown, the girl who claims she was attacked. "I told him I felt uncomfortable and that I was going to leave. So, I turned around to leave and he called my name. In shock, I turned back around toward him, trying to figure out how he knew my name, and he was right there in my face and he hit my head up against the pole twice." Police released a sketch of the man Brown described as her attacker on Saturday. On Tuesday night, investigators said Brown made the report up, and charges are pending against the teen. Stay with Fox Carolina News and foxcarolina.com for the latest on this developing story.

February 1, 2010

Spartanburg County deputies said that footprints in the snow led them to their suspect in a series of car break-ins on Saturday night. Deputies said they were called to 335 Deer Chase Drive at about 9:15 p.m. They said that when investigators arrived a man told them that his car had been broken into and his things were gone through. Investigators said that they noticed a distinct set of footprints left in the fresh snow near the car. They said that they followed the footprints to a home at 780 Rogers Bridge Road. Deputies said that 21-year-old Garret Pierce, who lived at the home, was found wearing the footwear that made the footprints at the scene of the car burglary. They said that the same footprints were also found at the scene of several other car break-ins in the neighborhood. Pierce was charged with eight counts of carbreaking and five counts of tampering with a vehicle. He was being held at the Spartanburg County Detention Center on \$45,000 bond. Deputies said that Pierce only stole from vehicles that had unlocked doors. They said that this is a perfect example of why residents should make sure they lock their doors when they leave their vehicle.

February 2, 2010

Asheville police said they have arrested one of three cross-dressing men who are responsible for numerous thefts in the area. Investigators said that surveillance video shows three men dressed as women stealing everything from computers to televisions to video game systems in the Asheville and Spartanburg areas. Police said that the trio, identified as Tremain Lucas, Alvin Ray and Chester Ray III, have hit Best Buy stores and Target stores in Asheville and several businesses in Spartanburg's Dorman Center over a period of several months. Investigators said that Chester Ray was arrested on Monday night. Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Lucas and Alvin Ray were asked to call Asheville police.

February 2, 2010

Federal prosecutors said that Spartanburg County Clerk of Court Marcus Kitchens and another man have been arrested and charged with federal drug crimes. Investigators said that Kitchens stole drugs from the Spartanburg County Courthouse's evidence room. They said that Kitchens then asked Terry Lanford, of Spartanburg County, to find a buyer for the stolen drugs. They said that Lanford found a buyer in Florida and sold him the stolen drugs in August. Prosecutors said that the buyer in Florida was actually a confidentially informant for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency. They said that authorities in both South Carolina and Florida worked with the informant to identify Lanford and Kitchens as the source of the drugs. Kitchens and Lanford were arrested on Tuesday morning after law enforcement monitored a meeting between the two, investigators said. They said that during the meeting Landford paid Kitchens \$3,000 for partial overdue payment on the August drug deal. "Stealing and selling the very drugs that dedicated law enforcement officers had earlier removed from the streets is a very disturbing allegation and a very serious charge," said acting U.S. Attorney Kevin McDonald. "No one is more shocked about this than I am," said Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright. He said that his agency has a hard stance on drug dealers, no matter who they are. Kitchens was charged with conspiring to possess with intent to distribute cocaine and methamphetamine. The charges against Lanford were not immediately available. If convicted, both Kitchens and Lanford could receive 20 years in prison and a \$2 million fine

February 3, 2010



A domestic dispute that turned into a standoff Tuesday evening in Easley ended late Tuesday night, Anderson County deputies said. SWAT members were called to the home on Shenandoah Drive after a man barricaded himself inside, authorities said. The man had been inside the home for more than six hours before surrendering at about 11:45 p.m. Tuesday. According to deputies, the incident began as a domestic dispute between the suspect, William Laurenano, and a woman, believed to be his wife or girlfriend, inside their home located on Shenandoah Drive. The woman fled the house and called police from a business on Pelzer Highway. When deputies arrived at about 5 p.m., they said Laurenano barricaded himself and his 18-year-old son in the house. Deputies also told FOX Carolina that Laurenano was armed with a gun. Deputies said the man eventually let his son go at about 10 p.m., before surrendering about two hours later. Laurenano was charged with criminal domestic violence. He was being held at the Anderson County Detention Center.

February 9, 2010

A man already being held in jail on child pornography charges has also now been charged with molesting a 6-year-old girl. Pickens County deputies charged 49-year-old Michael Miller with engaging a child under 18 for sexual performance, lewd act on a minor and first-degree sexual exploitation of a minor. Deputies said that the investigation into Miller's alleged actions began in October 2009 when they were called to his home after a report of a domestic disturbance. They said that while deputies were at the home they found illegal drugs and boxes containing photos and videos of child pornography. Miller was charged with assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature, second-degree sexual exploitation of a minor, first-degree sexual exploitation of a minor, criminal domestic violence, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia in connection with the earlier incident. Deputies said that during the course of their investigation they determined that Miller video taped himself fondling a 6-year-old girl. They said that on the videos you can hear Miller's voice instructing the girl how to pose in a sexual manner. If convicted, Miller faces up to 55 years in prison. Miller was being held at the Pickens County Detention Center on his bond that was assigned to him after the first incident.

February 24, 2010

A second-grader at Duncan Elementary School was suspended on Tuesday after he brought an unloaded gun to school. Bobby Bentley, spokesperson for Spartanburg County District 5, said that a student told a teacher during lunch that they had seen a gun in another student's book bag. The gun was found and turned over to school administrators, Bentley said. Bentley said that the student who brought the gun to school, who is also a special needs student, told officials that he had used a chair to climb up and retrieve the gun from above the stove after his family had gone to sleep. No one was threatened with the weapon.

March 8, 2010

Officials are searching for a prisoner who they said walked away from a minimum-security facility in Spartanburg on Monday afternoon. The South Carolina Department of Corrections said that 26-year-old Franklin Harris was reported missing from the Livesay Correctional Institution at about 1:30 p.m. Harris is serving an eight-year sentence for assault with intent to kill after a conviction in Union County. He has been in jail since March 3, 2009. Harris now faces a felony escape charge, which carries a sentence of up to 15 years in prison. Anyone with information on Harris' whereabouts was asked to call the DOC's Fugitive Apprehension Unit at 877-349-2130.

March 9, 2010

A Greenville woman was charged with homicide by child abuse on Monday after a child in her care died. Police said that investigators were called to Greenville Memorial Hospital on Monday morning. They said a doctor told them that a 2-year-old unconscious girl was brought to the emergency room at about 11:15 a.m. The doctor told investigators that the child was receiving treatment for severe injuries consistent with shaken baby syndrome. The toddler died at about 9:29 p.m., police said. Investigators said they determined that the child's cousin, 51-year-old Judy Greer, was caring for the girl just before she was brought to the hospital. They said that Greer told them she was trying to rock the child to sleep and shook the child. She said that the child suddenly became quiet and still. The child's mother, Jocquin Dodd, said she does not believe that Greer killed her girl. "She was faced down like that on her stomach," Dodd said. "I don't think she was shook, but it will come out." Greer's cousin, Shara Dodd, said she told her that a television set fell on the child while she slept. "She's been wrongfully charged, she

didn't do it," Shara Dodd said. "She was mostly our caretaker for our children and she's been there for all of our kids." Greer is being held at the Greenville County Detention Center.

March 12, 2010

A woman has been indicted on a charge that she embezzled more than \$500,000 from a South Carolina bank. The Herald-Journal of Spartanburg reported that 44-year-old Kimberly McAbee, of Woodruff, was indicted by a federal grand jury on a single count of embezzlement. Investigators said that she took about \$520,000 from Arthur State Bank in Union between 2005 and 2009. Acting U.S. Attorney Kevin McDonald said he could not discuss details of the case. But McDonald said McAbee was a loan administrator and used the position to access bank funds. She faces a fine of up to \$1 million and up to 30 years in prison if she is convicted.

March 12, 2010

Two more AT&T cell phone stores were burglarized in Greenville County early Friday morning, just a day after two other AT&T stores were ransacked by thieves. Police said that two AT&T stores in Greer were each broken into either late Thursday night or early Friday morning. The first happened at 5322 Wade Hampton Boulevard, where police said that the glass of the front door was shattered, allowing the burglars to gain entry. The second burglary happened at 215 Wade Hampton Boulevard. Investigators said that the thieves used the same method of entry, shattering the glass of the front door. Police said that at both locations, the burglars stole cell phones and cell phone accessories. The amount the stolen merchandise is worth was not released. On Thursday, investigators said that two other AT&T stores were burglarized. One is located on Haywood Road and the other is located on North Pleasantburg Drive. Police said that at about 6:30 a.m. Thursday three men broke into the store on Haywood Road by shattering the glass on the front door. They said that the men then pried open a door to a back office and emptied out a storage closet. They said that the men got away with dozens of cell phones and a laptop computer, all worth nearly \$14,000. Investigators said that about 30 minutes after the Haywood Store burglary, the same group of men broke into the AT&T store in Cherrydale on North Pleasantburg Drive. They said that the men took phones from a display case and broke into a back office, where they stole equipment. Investigators from multiple law enforcement agencies are working together to solve this string of break ins. They said that they believe the burglaries are connected.

March 12, 2010

A man wanted in connection with a 2005 homicide was arrested in Oregon early Friday morning, Greenville County deputies said. Felix Moreno, 31, of Greenville was a suspect in the June 5, 2005, shooting death of his roommate, 22-year-old Apolinar Castillo. Investigators said that Castillo was found shot in the head in the driveway of his Dixie Circle home by two of his other roommates. They ran to a business next door and called for help. Deputies said that Moreno hired Pierre Pena to kill Castillo. They said that Castillo and Moreno had been involved in a dispute just before the fatal shooting. Pena was arrested by South Carolina authorities in August 2005 and was sentenced to eight years in prison for being an accessory after the fact of murder. Moreno was arrested by police in Gresham, Ore., at about 2 a.m. after a tip led them to a home where he was staying. Moreno was charged with murder, solicitation to commit a felon and intimidation of a witness. He was being held in Oregon until he can be extradited to Greenville.

March 12, 2010

The conviction of former Greenville County Councilman Tony Trout was upheld by an appeals court in Virginia on Friday. On April 22, Trout was found guilty of two counts of illegally accessing computers one count of illegally intercepting an electronic communication and one count of unlawful disclosure of an electronic communication. He was sentenced to one year in prison and is currently serving that sentence in Beckley, W.Va. Trout appealed his conviction, claiming he was not given a fair trial because the judge allowed prejudicial testimony about Trout's negative history with other council members and county staff. The appeals panel, made up of three judges, rejected the appeal, saying the testimony provided context to Trout's conduct underlying the charges. Trout began serving his sentence on Sept. 22, 2009.

March 15, 2010

A man who deputies were trying to arrest on Thursday attempted to run over an investigator, Spartanburg County deputies said. Deputies said that 44-year-old Everett Hunter, of Spartanburg, sold cocaine to a confidential informant for the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office on March 4 near Fairforest Middle School. Narcotics investigators located Hunter on Thursday morning in a car parked at 356 Drummond Circle. They said that when the approached the vehicle, Hunter put his car in reverse and backed into a vehicle behind his twice. They said he then put the car in drive and accelerated toward one of the investigators, who had to jump out of the way to avoid being hit. Hunter escaped during a pursuit, deputies said. Deputies said that Hunter later agreed to turn himself in to authorities and was arrested at the Monarch Place apartments in Wellford. Hunter was charged with three counts of assault with intent to kill, trafficking cocaine, distribution of drugs near a school and failure to stop for a blue light. He was denied bond and is being held at the Spartanburg County Detention Center

March 16, 2010

Greenville police have arrested a man in connection with the 2007 shooting death of a Greenville man who was killed while leaving work. Isaac Bass, 22, was found shot to death outside the Wendy's restaurant on North Pleasantburg Drive in January 2007. Police said that they arrested 21-year-old Korey Love has been charged with murder, attempted armed robbery, possession of a weapon during a violent crime and possession of a pistol by a person unlawful. Investigators said that the arrest came after receiving tips that came in during news coverage of the third anniversary of Bass' death in January. They said that they were able to determine that Love was one of the people involved in the shooting. Bass' family recently held an auction to increase the amount of the reward in the case in hopes of generating new leads.

"When we were at the cemetery, I promised Issac I wouldn't give up on him and find who did this to him and get justice for him," said Jeff Creel, Bass' stepfather. Police said they expect to make more arrests in the case.

March 16, 2010

A man exposed himself to a North Carolina who was waiting to board a bus in Greenville on Sunday, police said. The incident happened at 100 West McBee Avenue at about 8 p.m. Police said that an Asheville woman had taken her luggage inside the station and then went back outside to get a snack from the vending machine. They said the woman looked to her right and noticed a man exposing himself to her from the opposite side of a fence. They said the man then pointed at the woman and motioned for her to come with him. The woman told police the man was wearing a dark, heavy coat and a beanie cap. Another person told police that there is a man who frequents the bus stop and exposes himself to women. Police were not able to locate the man, whose name was not released.

March 16, 2010

A fight turned into a stabbing in Greenville County early Wednesday morning. The stabbing happened inside an apartment on Lee Street at about 1 a.m. Police said that three men were fighting and one of the men was stabbed in the lower back. There was no word on what led to the fight. The victim was expected to recover, but the two other men involved in the fight fled the scene. Anyone with information about the stabbing was asked to call Greenville County Crime Stoppers at 23-CRIME.

March 18, 2010

Deputies have charged six teenagers in connection with the gang initiation and beating of a 15-year-old boy on Monday. Investigators said they were called to a home on Broadway Street in Glendale at about 6 p.m. Deputies said that when they arrived the boy's mother said her son was assaulted by members of a gang called "Rolling 60s." She said that her son was being forced to join the gang and was being "jumped in." They said that this process involves physically assaulting a prospective gang member as part of an initiation. Investigators said that after the teens beat the boy they threatened him and the lives of his family members if he refused orders from the gang. The boy's mother took him to an area hospital where he was treated for bruises to his chest. Michael Johnson, 18, Justin Thigpen, 17, and Elizabeth Weather, 17, all of Spartanburg, were charged with second-degree lynching. Johnson and Thigpen were also charged with soliciting and recruiting for a gang. Weathers was also charged with criminal conspiracy. Deputies said that three other minors were each charged with second-degree lynching and soliciting and recruiting for a gang. Their names were not released because of their ages. Johnson, Thigpen and Weathers were released from jail on bond.

March 19, 2010

A former Upstate paramedic has been sentenced to 20 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to molesting three children. Solicitor Trey Gowdy's office said that 38-year-old Shawn Daily was sentenced Thursday in Spartanburg. Daily pleaded guilty to committing a lewd act on a minor Thursday. He had pleaded guilty last month to committing lewd acts on two other children. Daily also was ordered to serve 10 years of probation after the sentence is completed. He also will have his name added to the sex offender registry. Prosecutors said that the victims' families agreed to the pleas to avoid stressful trials. "Shawn Daily is a sexual predator that managed to hide in plain sight," said assistant solicitor Abel Gray. "He violated the trust of innocent children." Daily worked for Spartanburg County Emergency Medical Services from 1993 to early 2009 when he resigned after charges were filed. None of the offenses occurred while he was on duty.

March 23, 2010

Greenville County deputies said that they arrived at a home on State Park Road on Tuesday afternoon that had been burglarized. They said that once they arrived, investigators started questioning neighbors about what happened. They said that led them to a house just down the road where they found a methamphetamine lab. Investigators said they noticed some items at the house that looked like they were used to make methamphetamine. They said that they found a small sized methamphetamine lab in the garage. Neighbors said they are concerned that this has been going on for quite some time. Sue Davis is the neighbor whose home was burglarized. "Cars have been going up and down the driveway, always going in there continuously," Davis said. "Come to find out he had been selling drugs. Someone told me he has a meth lab back there that they are researching as we speak." Deputies said they found items like propane tanks lying around the house. They said that tipped them off that there may be some sort of drug lab inside.

March 25, 2010

During a court hearing Wednesday, the owner of a condemned apartment complex said a judge ordered him to return to court in 30 days to see if he had made progress in cleaning up the property. Last July, code enforcers in Greer wrote the owner, Rodger Wiren, a ticket stating he had violated housing codes with bad plumbing, electrical problems and broken windows at the Kudzu Court Apartments. They said that after none of the repairs was made, they condemned the place a couple of weeks ago. "I can't afford to move anywhere," said Willie Drummond, a resident. Drummond has not lived at the complex long, but said if he is forced to move, he does not know where he will go. He also said he talked to Wiren. "All the tenants around here feel like I do," Drummond said. "They're willing to wait to see what happens. I talked to him a little bit the other day when he was out there looking around and walking around and he said he's going to fix things up. So, I've got to give him a chance." Wiren told FOX Carolina's Jennifer Phillips that he is working on cleaning up the place and trying to do what the city told him to do. "It will pay off," Drummond said. Even though Drummond has some water damage under his floor, he said for the most part, he's satisfied with his apartment. "If he needs help, I told him I'll help him out," he said. "I'm just hanging in there and going with the flow." Code enforcers condemned eight apartments, which is the entire property. Deputies charged 24-year-old Alicia Price, of Landrum, with second-degree burglary, grand larceny and manufacturing methamphetamine. Kalen Bowman, 43, of Travelers Rest, was charged with manufacturing methamphetamine and receiving stolen goods. Both Price and Bowman were being held at the Greenville County Detention Center.

March 26, 2010

Greenville County deputies said that a man who threatened to blow up a truck full of explosives to shut down an area surrounding a bar in Simpsonville on Friday afternoon. Deputy Matt Armstrong, of the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, said that a man walked in to The Zone at 404 Harrison Bridge Road at about 3 p.m. and sat down at the bar. They said that the man then told the bartender that he had a truck full of explosives and that he was going to detonate it. Armstrong said an area surround the bar was shut down as a precaution while deputies searched for the man's truck. They said that no weapons or explosives were found in the man's vehicle. The man was detained by bar staff until law enforcement arrived, Armstrong said. The bar was reopened at about 5 p.m. Deputies said that James Goyette, of Simpsonville, was charged with conveyance of a destructive device.

March 30, 2010

Police have arrested four people in connection with a fraud investigation involving the city of Asheville's Human Resources Department. Asheville police said that 50-year-old Elizabeth Oldre, 49-year-old Robin Nix, 39-year-old Laura Masters and 45-year-old Lisa Roth were charged after a four-month-long investigation. Oldre, of Leicester, was charged with obtaining property by false pretenses. Nix, of Weaverville, was charged with three counts of obtaining property by false pretenses. Masters, of Leicester, was charged with five counts of forgery and six counts of obtaining property by false pretenses. Roth, of Tuckasgee, was charged with obstruction of justice and making a false statement to the retirement system. Asheville City Manager Gary Jackson said in a statement to the media on Tuesday that "questionable practices" were discovered in the Human Resources Department in December 2009. He said that he immediately turned the information over to law enforcement for investigation. He would not say what the "questionable practices" were. Jackson said that as of Tuesday the city's human resources director and human resources assistant director were no longer employed with the city. "As public servants, we must hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards," Jackson said in the statement. "Any breach of those standards is simply unacceptable." Oldre, Nix and Roth were released from jail after promising to appear in court. Bond for Masters was set at \$110,000. All four women were scheduled to appear in court on Wednesday morning.

March 31, 2010

A man who police witnessed selling drugs was sentenced to 15 years in prison for the crime, 10th Circuit Solicitor Chrissy Adams said. Antonio Glover was found guilty on Tuesday of trafficking crack and resisting arrest. The judge sentenced him to 15 years in prison for the drug charge and a year in prison for the resisting arrest charge. Adams said that on Aug. 7, 2007, Anderson police officers witnessed Glover making a drug deal. She said that when officers tried to arrest him, he struggled with them. The solicitor said that 19.14 grams of crack cocaine were found in Glover's pocket once he was arrested. Glover will serve the two sentences concurrently.

March 31, 2010

A Calhoun Falls Charter School teacher is being held at the Abbeville County Detention Center after police said that he had sex with a student. James Christopher Taylor, 39, was charged with criminal sexual conduct and was denied bond during a hearing on Tuesday. Police said that the victim is 15 years old. They said that the investigation started after the girl went missing on March 20. That said that her parents filed a report, but she showed up at home later that night. "This teacher brought her home that night once she had been missing," said Calhoun Falls Police Chief James Alewine. Alewine said that while the student was missing, she was with Taylor. According to arrest warrants, Taylor had sex with the student. People who know Taylor said they were shocked by the allegations. "I happen to know the guy and he's always seemed like a nice person to me," said Josh Gary. "I've known him for several years and I just hope it's not true." Police said they do not believe there are any other students involved. "You're going to have two sides hurt," Alewine said. "You got to have his side devastated. Her side is going to be devastated. The community is going to be devastated. We fought hard for our charter school up here and it's going to hurt the school." School officials refused to comment on Taylor's arrest.

March 31, 2010

Greer police charged a Hillcrest High School teacher with 26 counts of second-degree sexual exploitation of a minor on Tuesday. Detectives said the charges against 46-year-old Michael Stephen Riddle, of Greer, stem from an ongoing investigation regarding child pornography images found in his home. Riddle is a teacher at Hillcrest High School in Simpsonville. At this time, investigators with the Greer Police Department said they do not believe any of the victims involved are direct acquaintances of Riddle. Riddle was arraigned at Greer Municipal Court on Tuesday night. His bond was set at \$156,000. According to Oby Lyles, of Greenville County Schools, Riddle was placed on leave pending the outcome of an investigation. He said that Riddle was a science teacher at the school.

March 31, 2010

A former Greenville police officer pleaded guilty to a federal civil rights charge on Tuesday. Court documents filed on Friday show that former Greenville police Officer Matthew Scott Jowers has been accused of grabbing or pushing someone who was in his custody. Jowers pleaded guilty on Tuesday to deprivation of civil rights, acting U.S. Attorney Kevin McDonald said.

McDonald said that the charge against Jowers is part of an ongoing investigation. He said that Greenville police have cooperated with the FBI and state authorities. The police department said that Jowers worked for the agency for about three years and left in September. "As chief, I want to reassure the members of this community that the men and women that comprise this agency are dedicated to treating everyone with respect, dignity and equality, and integrity with this agency is not negotiable," said Greenville Police Chief Terri Wilfong in a statement to the media on Friday. Jowers' attorney, Beattie Ashmore, said that the charge is a misdemeanor and carries up to a year in prison. He said that his client was just ready to get the past behind him. He will be sentenced at a later date.

March 31, 2010

Just like every morning, Paul Morelli got into his car so he could head to work. But, before he even cranked his car he noticed something odd. "I noticed my papers on the front seat, they were out from the glove compartment," Morelli said. Morelli said he quickly realized that a thief broke into his car and stole his GPS device. "Yeah, I was just thrilled that the car wasn't damaged at all," Morelli said. Morelli said he's usually more careful and makes sure his home and property are secured, but not this time. "I learned a lesson," Morelli said. "Don't leave our car door unlocked, even if it was by mistake, and certainly it could have been worse." Lt. Matt Hamby works with the Greer Police Department. He said that Morelli's car was not the only one in the neighborhood that thieves rummaged through. He said that there were at least 20 other victims scattered throughout several neighborhoods in Greer. He said that all of the cars were unlocked. "If the car is locked they seem to be moving on to the next car," Hamby said. Hamby said that six neighborhoods in the Greer area were hit. "Things like GPS units, iPods, mostly electronic items were left in unlocked cars," Hamby said. Thieves made their way to Lismore Village in Greer, too. "They said there had been 15 in neighboring neighborhoods and that there were three just in this neighborhood," said Natalia Marucs, whose husband had items stolen out of his car. "My husband noticed that he had a pocket knife that was missing. It makes me feel violated when someone comes in and snoops through your stuff." Hamby said that police officers have increased patrol in the area. He said that everyone should make sure that their cars are locked when they are unattended. Anyone with information about the thefts was asked to call the Greer Police Department.

March 31, 2010

Deputies have arrested a man in connection with a shooting at a home in Anderson County on Sunday. Deputies said that 21-year-old Walter Lee Mattison was charged with assault and battery with intent to kill in connection with the shooting of Cederick Patterson. Investigators said that when they arrived at the scene of the shooting, 801 S. Manning St., they found Patterson suffering from a gunshot wound and another man, 56-year-old Larry Robinson, beaten. Deputies said that Mattison was only charged in connection with the shooting. They said that the beating is still under investigation and that no charges have been filed in that case. Both Patterson and Robinson were recovering from their injuries at a local hospital. Mattison was being held at the Anderson County Detention Center on \$50,000 bond.

## *Attachments*



## *Education*

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED  
FIRST QUARTER 2010**

Problem/Need: **EDUCATION**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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January 15, 2010

After-school H1N1 vaccination clinics for middle and high school students are scheduled for Tuesday Jan. 26-29 at four high schools across Greenville County. Middle and high school students may get their free H1N1 vaccination at any of the four after-school clinics. They must present a signed parent consent Form at a clinic to receive the H1N1 vaccine. Parents will receive a consent form and a letter about the clinics from their child's school. The clinics will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. at the following locations: Hillcrest High School on Jan. 26, Wade Hampton High School on Jan. 27, Greer High School on Jan. 28 and Southside High School on Jan. 29. Parents and students should not arrive before 3:50 p.m. at any after-school clinic so high schools hosting the clinics can safely dismiss students. Parents of middle school students must be present for their child to be immunized. High school students do not have to be accompanied by a parent. Students without a parent will have to be observed for about 10 minutes to ensure there is no negative reaction to the H1N1 vaccination. If you have further questions about the H1N1 vaccine, please call your doctor or the Greenville County Health Department at 282-4100.

January 25, 2010

Little girls may learn to fear math from the women who are their earliest teachers. Despite gains in recent years, women still trail men in some areas of math achievement, and the question of why has provoked controversy. Now, a study of first- and second-graders suggests what may be part of the answer: Female elementary school teachers who are concerned about their own math skills could be passing that along to the little girls they teach. Young students tend to model themselves after adults of the same sex, and having a female teacher who is anxious about math may reinforce the stereotype that boys are better at math than girls, explained Sian L. Beilock, an associate professor in psychology at the University of Chicago. Beilock and colleagues studied 52 boys and 65 girls who in classes taught by 17 different teachers. Ninety percent of U.S. elementary school teachers are women, as were all of those in this study. Student math ability was not related to teacher math anxiety at the start of the school year, the researchers report in Tuesday's edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. But by the end of the year, the more anxious teachers were about their own math skills, the more likely their female students -- but not the boys -- were to agree that "boys are good at math and girls are good at reading." In addition, the girls who answered that way scored lower on math tests than either the classes' boys or the girls who had not developed a belief in the stereotype, the researchers found. "It's actually surprising in a way, and not. People have had a hunch that teachers could impact the students in this way, but didn't know how it might do so in gender-specific fashion," Beilock said in a telephone interview. Beilock, who studies how anxieties and stress can affect people's performance, noted that other research has indicated that elementary education majors at the college level have the highest levels of math anxiety of any college major. "We wanted to see how that impacted their performance," she said. After seeing the results, the researchers recommended that the math requirements for obtaining an elementary education teaching degree be rethought. "If the next generation of teachers -- especially elementary school teachers -- is going to teach their students effectively, more care needs to be taken to develop both strong math skills and positive math attitudes in these educators," the researchers wrote. Janet S. Hyde, a professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, called the study a "great paper, very clever research." "It squares with an impression I've had for a long time," said Hyde, who was not part of the research team. Hyde was lead author of a 2008 study showing women gaining on men in math skills but still lagging significantly in areas such as physics and engineering. Girls who grow up believing females lack math skills wind up avoiding harder math classes, Hyde noted. "It keeps girls and women out of a lot of careers, particularly high-prestige, lucrative careers in science and technology," she said. Beilock did note that not all of the girls in classrooms with math-anxious teachers fell prey to the stereotype, but "teachers are one source," she said. Teacher math anxiety was measured on a 25-question test about situations that made them anxious, such as reading a cash register receipt or studying for a math test. A separate test checked the math skills of the teachers, who worked in a large Midwestern urban school district. Student math skills were tested in the first three months of the school year and again in the last two months of the year.

January 27, 2010



A "community incident" has prompted education officials in Oconee and Pickens counties to close an upcoming basketball game to the public. According to a joint news release from each school district, recent community events have led them to play Friday night's Daniel vs. Seneca varsity basketball game in a closed gym. They said that only team members, coaches, game personnel, school administrators, law enforcement officials and members of the media will be allowed inside the gym during the game. "This was a joint decision preceded by careful consideration of many options," said Seneca High School principal Cliff Roberts. Although officials would not say what the "community incident" was, they did say that the event has not impacted instruction at the schools. "It's unfortunate that a community incident negatively impacts a high school game in this way," said Sharon Huff, principal at Daniel High School. "The Daniel vs. Seneca game is always well attended, and people enjoy the rivalry. Our athletic program will lose revenue; however, we can't put a price on student safety. We're simply taking precautions to protect students." Officials also said that the junior varsity games scheduled at Seneca High School have been canceled.

January 27, 2010

Clemson collected more than \$6,100 for the Haiti Relief Fund at last Saturday night's basketball game with Duke at Littlejohn Coliseum. The athletic department announced the results of the fundraiser Wednesday. All donations will go to the American Red Cross and be designated to help victims of the Haitian earthquake. Clemson athletic director Terry Don Phillips thanked all those involved in raising the funds.

January 29, 2010

Greenville County School District officials said that a natural gas leak prompted an evacuation of students and staff. Officials said that the gas leak was detected before students arrived at Riverside Middle School. They were rerouted to Riverside High School. That was also where school staff were sent. Firefighters said that the leak was contained just before 9 a.m. and that they are now ventilating the facility. No one was injured. Students and staff will be allowed back into the school at about 10 a.m., officials said.

February 2, 2010

Marcus Lattimore is known for his moves on the football field, so a little trickery isn't hard for him at all. On Tuesday, he made another big move with the shuffle of a Carolina and Auburn cap. He announced he would play college football at the University of South Carolina. "I just had to do what was in my heart," Lattimore said. At Byrnes High School, Lattimore rushed for nearly 1,900 yards and he rushed for 31 touchdowns his senior year. He also caught five touchdowns and gained more than 750 yards receiving. Lattimore's brother, Octavius Love, said the family is excited that his brother decided to stay in the state. "He has these people over here that he likes, Auburn, and he has these people over here that he likes, South Carolina," Love said. "He didn't really want to let either side down because you make friends each way, but he did what was best for him." Hundreds packed Silver Hill Memorial United Methodist Church in Spartanburg for the announcement. Several Gamecock fans wore their garnet and black and cheered when he made the announcement. "I think he's the piece of the puzzle we've been missing," said Daniel Chapman, a Gamecock fan. "We've already got great receivers and a good defense and were just missing that break-out running back." A couple of Auburn University fans showed up, too. So, before the announcement, no one knew exactly which school Lattimore would choose. "When I saw Stephen Davis, I didn't know what to think because he was a running back for Auburn," said Bobby Bessinger, a Carolina fan. Davis, the former Spartanburg High School football star and former running back with the Carolina Panthers, walked out with Lattimore and handed him a bag with two baseball caps inside. But, Davis was there to show his support for Lattimore even though he didn't choose to go to Auburn. "With a lot of determination and growth, I think the sky's the limit for him," Davis said. Lattimore made his announcement a day before National Signing Day, when most high school sports standouts announce where they will play college sports

February 2, 2010

A Pacolet teen was arrested on Tuesday after he called in a bomb threat to Broome High School on Monday afternoon, Spartanburg County deputies said. Deputies said that 17-year-old Michael Elgin borrowed a classmate's cell phone and called in the threat while he was in class at the school. They said that other students told the school resource officer that Elgin was responsible for making the threat. Elgin was charged with disturbing school and making a bomb threat or conveying false information about a bomb threat. He was released on \$6,000 bond.

February 5, 2010

Greenville County students out-performed their statewide counterparts on South Carolina's new standardized test, educators said on Friday. Elementary school students did better in all five subjects on the Palmetto Achievement of State Standards test, which is called the PASS test. The only group that struggled were sixth-graders. Educators said that is to be expected since that grade is a transition year. Educators said that 36.9 percent of Greenville County eighth-graders tested below their grade level in math. That was still better than the state average of 37.3 percent. The PASS test replaced the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test, or PACT, last year.

February 5, 2010

South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford wants to use federal money to convert failing public schools into charter schools. Sanford spokesman Ben Fox said Friday that the governor made the request a day earlier during a meeting in Washington with U.S. Education chief Arne Duncan. The Republican governor last year unsuccessfully opposed the state's receipt of federal stimulus money, arguing it would drive up the deficit, fail to save jobs and open budget gaps when it runs out. Fox said that the governor did not ask for stimulus cash Thursday -- noting the grant money is different because states are requesting it for new programs. Sanford also talked with Duncan about extending charter schools permissions to last for five years, instead of three years.

February 10, 2010

The search for a man who fled when deputies tried to arrest him has prompted the lock down of a nearby school early Wednesday afternoon. Deputies said they were trying to serve arrest warrants to a man who is wanted on charges of burglary, grand larceny, driving under suspension and possession of a stolen vehicle. School officials said they locked down Taylors Elementary School, which is near the search area, as a precaution. It was released from lockdown at about 2 p.m.

February 10, 2010

Some South Carolina lawmakers concerned about Clemson University's public service spending said they still want a state review. The Greenville News reported five House members said that they have not gotten the information they want. The Legislative Audit Council in December postponed a decision while Greenville Sen. Mike Fair arranged meetings between school officials and lawmakers. Fair said that there are still questions. Clemson's Public Service Activities program operates research and education centers, as well as local extension offices. The lawmakers said they're concerned about what they call random budget cuts, big raises for some employees and whether the school is shortchanging its agricultural programs. The chairman of the audit council said that a decision could come in a few months.

February 10, 2010

Greenville County school leaders are considering later start times for middle and high school students. The proposal would start school 15 minutes later for the two groups, but the length of the school day would remain the same. Under the proposed change, middle school students would start school at 8:30 a.m. and end their day at 3:15 p.m. High school students would begin their school day at 8:45 a.m. and end it at 3:45 p.m. The idea seems to be gaining momentum with members of the school board. One major reason for the change is budget cutbacks, said Greenville County School Board Chair Megan Hickerson. She said that the district has not been able to buy enough new buses to add to its routes. Other officials said that some middle and high school students are tardy to class because their buses are still finishing elementary school routes. The board will have a final vote on the measure in late February.

February 18, 2010

In the last year, the nation's private colleges have laid off staff, shelved construction projects, slashed sports teams and turned down thermostats to cut costs. But student financial aid has kept flowing. Now the weak economy is forcing some institutions to limit their generosity after many of them doubled or even tripled financial aid over the last decade to attract more applicants and reduce student debt. Two of the nation's most selective private colleges -- Dartmouth and Williams -- announced they would no longer offer aid packages that allow students of any income to attend without taking out loans. Other schools are expected to follow suit, meaning many middle-class students will have to take on more debt. Situations vary depending on the school, but experts expect financial aid at private schools to be less generous than last year while colleges increase tuition by 4 to 6 percent. Many colleges dipped into savings last year to substantially increase student aid out of concern their enrollments would plunge because of the economic downturn -- fears that went unrealized at most schools. "There's a bit of a feeling that in increasing aid, maybe colleges went a little overboard because there was a lot of panic a year ago," said Roland King, vice president of public affairs for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. "I think it's going to be a more austere year." On Monday, Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H., became the latest prestigious private institution to announce sweeping cutbacks in the wake of the recession. The Ivy League school said it will lay off about 76 staff as part of a plan to close a projected \$100 million budget gap. The Dartmouth board also approved a 4.6 percent increase in undergraduate tuition, room and board, and fees, raising the annual tab to \$52,275 -- the smallest increase in the past five years, officials said. The school said it would increase its financial aid budget 10 percent to help offset the tuition increase. But one big part of the aid program will be cut: The plan to offer loan-free financial aid for students of all income levels beginning with the class entering in fall 2011. "The simple reality is that we just can't afford that anymore," said Dartmouth President Jim Yong Kim. Between 30 and 40 schools, most of them private, replaced loans with grants or scholarships for students on financial aid in recent years. But that was when college endowments were posting record gains. Dartmouth's endowment lost 23 percent of its value last fiscal year, falling to \$2.8 billion. Over the weekend, the Dartmouth board voted to reinstate loans of \$2,500 to \$5,500 per academic year for financial aid recipients from families with incomes above \$75,000. Students from families that earn less will continue to receive free tuition and loan-free aid packages. The move comes a week after Williams College, a private liberal arts school in Williamstown, Mass., became the first school to announce it would rescind a no-loans policy, starting in fall 2011. Williams has said the neediest students will not be required to take out any loans, but it has not announced details. "Our financial aid program will continue to be one of the most generous anywhere, as it should be, and we are convinced that Williams will remain financially attractive to aided students at all levels of income," interim President Bill Wagner wrote in a Jan. 31 letter. Other elite private schools are sticking with their no-loan policies, at least for now. Among them is Amherst College, which has doubled its low-income student enrollment in recent years, in part through more transfers from community colleges and more international students. "But we also have to remain accessible to the middle class, where we had under-representation and where there is so much talent," Amherst President Anthony Marx said. "Maintaining a no-loan policy seems to help us make Amherst more accessible to the middle class and also eliminate the constraints of debt on those students' career choices." Amherst is asking students on financial aid to contribute more of their summer earnings to their education -- a step that's anticipated at Swarthmore College and other schools. Most private schools, however, can only dream of being as wealthy as Amherst, one of 54 colleges and universities in the U.S. with endowments of more than \$1 billion. Schools facing greater financial difficulties might engage in "leveraging" -- sweetening the pot for students who can pay a larger chunk of their tuition in a bid to influence enrollments and improve their bottom lines, said Mark Kantrowitz, a financial aid expert and publisher of the FinAid and FastWeb web sites. Lauren Asher, president of the Berkeley, Calif.-based Institute for College Access and Success voiced a similar concern.

"If you have to cut back -- and that's a big if -- then focusing your available resources on those who need it the most is the right way to go," she said. "However, some colleges may take this economic crisis as license to spend more on students with less need to attract students who are paying a larger share of their tuition dollars ... That's a real danger." Few people pay the full

sticker price at private schools, she said, and it's a positive development that some schools are becoming more transparent about how much students are expected to borrow. Most private schools are in the process of setting their budgets for the next fiscal year and have yet to announce details on tuition and student aid projections. Some plan to offer more financial aid, in part because they plan to admit more students or raise tuition. Rice University in Houston plans a modest tuition increase and an increase to need-based financial aid. Rice President David Leebron said the school remains committed to a financial aid package that includes eliminating loans for families with incomes of less than \$80,000, and capping total loans for four years of college at \$10,000. "It's a challenging time," Leebron said. "For us, at least, it's so fundamental to who we are that we remain attractive to middle- and lower-income students, we don't contemplate major changes." Other colleges are looking to hold the line on aid. Colorado College's endowment declined by 19 percent last year to \$400 million, leading to staff cuts and elimination of the football program. Colorado College President Richard Celeste said the liberal arts school in Colorado Springs plans an "extremely modest tuition increase" and a financial aid increase to match. But beyond that, the college will not expand aid except for setting aside extra money for existing students in financial straits, he said. "What we want to count on for our students and our families is a stable outlook for financial aid," Celeste said. "Obviously, I'd very much like to increase it, but I need to have the money first."

February 23, 2010

Students in Asheville will have to go to school one day longer than originally planned because of the winter weather this year. The Asheville Citizen-Times reported that Asheville City Schools have extended the end of the school year by one day, to June 11. The move actually violates state regulations that require school to end by a certain time each year. School leaders said they do not have a choice after losing seven days to winter weather cancellations this year. Another makeup day was scheduled for this Saturday.

February 23, 2010

Clemson University said it is offering a new degree in environmental engineering. The school said that students in the program will learn to tackle serious environmental issues such as hazardous waste, increasing populations and limited resources. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics said it predicts a faster than average growth rate for the field in the next 10 years. The degree is the first of its kind in South Carolina.

February 23, 2010

A medical school in Virginia has announced plans to build a campus near downtown Spartanburg. The Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine said on Monday that it will break ground on its Spartanburg campus at the Spartan Mill site at the corner of College and Howard streets on Thursday. The campus is expected to produce 150 new doctors each year and have a student body of more than 600. Spartanburg City Manager Ed Memmott said the city is building a reputation as a hub for higher education. VCOM said it will announce more details on the number of jobs the new campus will create and the amount of money invested into the project on Thursday. According to the school's Web site, the new campus will open in the fall of 2011.

March 8, 2010

Union County Schools are considering cutting 30 jobs to make up for a \$3.4 million budget shortfall, interim Superintendent David Eubanks said Monday morning. Eubanks said that the district's budget will decrease from 27.9 million this year to \$24.5 million next year. He said that budget has decreased from \$31 million two years ago. The superintendent said that the bad economy has played a part in the budget shortfall, but he said that the state's revenue decrease has played a much larger part. "school districts don't have the luxury to increase taxes locally," Eubanks said. "So anytime the state reduces revenue, the district has to reduce services." Eubanks said that over the past two years the district has cut 121 jobs. He said that the latest rounds of cuts planned will not be limited to teachers. He said that positions in administration and teacher's assistance may also be affected. He said that the district will likely eliminate retired, at-will positions first to keep their contracted teachers in place. The cuts will not take effect until the 2010-2011 school year, Eubanks said. Eubanks said the number of cuts could be less or more, depending on what happens with the state budget this legislative session.

March 12, 2010

A new charter school is opening in Greenville, and one of the biggest churches in the Upstate is helping it get started. Lead Academy officials said that Redemption World Outreach Center is providing them with space to spread their message that all

kids can succeed. School Principal Rodney Johnson said that the school will teach other subjects beyond core subjects like fitness, music, art and foreign language to fifth and sixth grades. He said the school plans to add seventh and eighth grades soon. Johnson said that the school is targeting students who have underperformed in other schools, but all students are welcome. "Middle school is one of those times where children start to make decisions regarding their academic future," said Johnson. Lead Academy will host a public meeting about the school on Thursday, March 25, at 6:30 p.m. at the school off Haywood Road. Johnson said that at the meeting he will stress that failure is not an option for students

March 13, 2010

President Barack Obama is promising parents and their kids that with his administration's help they will have better teachers in improved schools so U.S. students can make up for academic ground lost against youngsters in other countries. A plan to overhaul the 2002 education law championed by President George W. Bush was unveiled by the Obama administration Saturday in hopes of replacing a system that in the last decade has tagged more than a third of schools as failing and created a hodgepodge of sometimes weak academic standards among states. "Unless we take action -- unless we step up -- there are countless children who will never realize their full talent and potential," Obama said during a video address on Saturday. "I don't accept that future for them. And I don't accept that future for the United States of America." In the proposed dismantling of the No Child Left Behind law, education officials would move away from punishing schools that don't meet benchmarks and focus on rewarding schools for progress, particularly with poor and minority students. Obama intends to send a rewrite to Congress on Monday of the law. The proposed changes call for states to adopt standards that ensure students are ready for college or a career rather than grade-level proficiency -- the focus of the current law. The blueprint also would allow states to use subjects other than reading and mathematics as part of their measurements for meeting federal goals, pleasing many education groups that have said No Child Left Behind encouraged teachers not to focus on history, art, science, social studies and other important subjects. And, for the first time in 45 years, the White House is proposing a \$4 billion increase in federal education spending, most of which would go to increase the competition among states for grant money and move away from formula-based funding. The blueprint goes before the House Education and Labor Committee on Wednesday as Obama pushes Congress to reauthorize the education law this year, a time-consuming task that some observers say will be difficult. Committee Chairman George Miller, a Democrat from California, praised Obama's plan. "This blueprint lays the right markers to help us reset the bar for our students and the nation," Miller said in a prepared statement. Meanwhile, the American Federation of Teachers, which represents more than 1.4 million educators nationwide, issued a statement Saturday criticizing the plan, saying "it just doesn't make sense to have teachers -- and teachers alone -- bear the responsibility for school and student success."

"It appears from our first review that despite some promising rhetoric, this blueprint places 100 percent of the responsibility on teachers and gives them zero percent authority," the statement said. Education Secretary Arne Duncan briefed a handful of governors, lawmakers and education groups on the plan Friday, including Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue, a Republican. "The governor is very supportive of the direction the secretary is going," said Perdue's spokesman Chris Schrimpf. A few other highlights from the blueprint: -- By 2020, all students graduating from high school would need to be ready for college or a career. That's a shift away from the current law, which calls for all students to be performing at grade level in reading and math by 2014. -- Give more rewards -- money and flexibility -- to high-poverty schools that are seeing big gains in student achievement and use them as a model for other schools in low-income neighborhoods that struggle with performance. -- Punish the lowest-performing 5 percent of schools using aggressive measures, such as having the state take over federal funding for poor students, replacing the principal and half the teaching staff or closing the school altogether. -- Duncan has said the name No Child Left Behind will be dropped because it is associated with a harsh law that punishes schools for not reaching benchmarks even if they've made big gains. He said the administration will work with Congress to come up with a new name. Amy Wilkins, a vice president with The Education Trust in Washington, D.C., called the blueprint a "culture shift." "One of the things America has not been clear about is what k-12 is supposed to do," Wilkins said. "In this, we're saying K-12 is supposed to prepare kids for college and meaningful careers." The nation's first federal education law -- Elementary and Secondary Education Act -- was passed in 1965 as part of Lyndon B. Johnson's war on poverty. The law has been reauthorized several times since, most recently in 2001 under President George W. Bush. It was criticized by educators for focusing too much on testing and not enough on learning. Daniel Domenech, executive director of the American Association of School Administrators, said he is glad to see No Child Left Behind go away. "We're delighted over that," he said. "We have not been a fan of No Child Left Behind."

March 15, 2010

The men's basketball teams from both Clemson and Wofford found out on Sunday which teams they will play during the first round of the NCAA tournament, which begins on Friday. Seventh-seeded Clemson will face No. 10 seed Missouri in the East Region in Buffalo, N.Y. The announcement comes on the heels of Clemson's early exit from the Atlantic Coast Conference last week. Clemson was knocked out in the first round by North Carolina State. Missouri coach Mike Anderson said he had butterflies before the announcement. His team has lost three of four games to end the season. The Missouri Tigers were also upset by Nebraska at the Big 12 tournament. This is the 10th NCAA tournament appearance for the Clemson Tigers and the third straight year they have made it to the big dance. Wofford, No. 13 seed, will take on No. 4 seed Wisconsin during the school's first trip to the NCAA tournament. The game will be played on Sunday in Jacksonville, Fla. The Badgers beat Wofford 70-43 in their only meeting in December 2007. The Terriers' breakthrough season includes wins against Georgia and South Carolina and a three-point loss to Pittsburgh in the season opener. Wofford has won 13 games in a row and 19 of their last 20 games. Winthrop University, in Rock Hill, S.C. is the last South Carolina team to make it to the 2010 tournament. The Eagles will play Arkansas Pine-Bluff on Tuesday night. The Eagles received an automatic bid to the tournament as winner of the Big South Conference. This is the team's ninth appearance at the NCAA tournament.

March 16, 2010

A middle school teacher in western North Carolina who is accused of writing the word "loser" on a student's paper has been suspended without pay for two weeks. Officials of Buncombe County schools said that Enka Middle School teacher Rex Roland was suspended on Monday. School officials said that Roland must undergo "training in professional and ethical classroom behavior" before he returns. Parent Patty Clement had complained that Roland wrote "loser" on her 11-year-old daughter's paper in November. She said that she spoke with the principal, who said she would put a stop to it. But recently, Clement said that Roland wrote that her daughter got 20 percent off an assignment "for being a loser." Roland apologized to Clement, saying it was his way of relating to the students.

March 16, 2010

PepsiCo plans to remove sugary drinks from schools worldwide, following the success of programs in the U.S. aimed at cutting down on childhood obesity. The company said Tuesday it will remove full-calorie, sweetened drinks from schools in more than 200 countries by 2012, marking the first such move by a major soft drink producer. Both PepsiCo Inc., the world's second-biggest soft drink maker, and No. 1 player Coca-Cola Co. adopted guidelines to stop selling sugary drinks in U.S. schools in 2006. The World Heart Federation has been negotiating with soft drink makers to have them remove sugary beverages from schools for the past year as it looks to fight a rise in childhood obesity, which can lead to diabetes, heart problems and other ailments. PepsiCo's move is what the group had been seeking because it affects students through age 18, said Pekka Puska, president of the group, a federation of heart associations from around the world. He said he hopes other companies feel pressured to make similar moves. "It may be not so well known in the U.S. how intensive the marketing of soft drinks is in so many countries," Puska said in an interview from Finland. He added that developing countries such as Mexico are particularly affected by this strong marketing. Coca-Cola this month changed its global sales policy to say it won't sell any of its drinks worldwide in primary schools unless parents or school districts ask. The policy does not apply to secondary schools. The World Heart Federation wants all drinks with added sugars removed from schools with children through age 18. Coca-Cola, based in Atlanta, said in a statement Tuesday when asked if it would expand its policy to secondary schools that it believes authorities "should have the right to choose what is best for their schools." PepsiCo's policy requires cooperation from its bottlers, vending companies and other distributors who take the company's products to schools worldwide. The company said it did not have exact figures for sales in schools around the world but said they did not make up a major portion of sales. In primary schools, PepsiCo will sell only water, fat-free or low-fat milk, and juice with no added sugar. In secondary schools, it will sell those drinks along with low-calorie soft drinks, such as Diet Pepsi. Sports drinks are permissible when they're sold to students participating in sports or other physical activities. In the U.S., the industry has swapped lower-calorie options into schools to replace sugary drinks. Sales of full-calorie soft drinks fell 95 percent in U.S. schools between fall 2004 and fall 2009, the American Beverage Association reported last week. The industry voluntarily adopted guidelines in 2006 as part of an agreement with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, a joint initiative of former President Bill Clinton's foundation and the American Heart Association. Puska said defeating childhood obesity isn't as simple as just removing sugary drinks from schools. Students must also exercise and eat better, not just at school but at home as well. Students should learn these habits at schools, he said.

March 19, 2010

Both the Clemson Tigers and the Wofford Terriers are preparing for their first games in the NCAA tournament, which will be played on Friday afternoon. "The Fastest 40 Minutes in Basketball" are headed for warp speed when Missouri meets Clemson in Friday's first round of the NCAA tournament. Seventh-seeded Clemson (21-10) is making its third straight appearance and looking to give coach Oliver Purnell his breakthrough triumph -- he's winless in five trips with three schools. Missouri (22-10), the 10th seed, has won four straight opening-round games. Both teams play a pressing style and enter the game hoping to right what has gone wrong recently. Missouri was stunned 75-60 by 12th-seeded Nebraska in the Big 12 tournament, while Clemson lost by a basket to 11th-seeded North Carolina State in the ACC tournament. Missouri averages nearly 11 steals a game, tops in the country, and forces 19.7 turnovers each time out. Clemson isn't far behind with an average of 17.5 turnovers and 9.6 steals. Mr. Knickerbocker, a college apparel store on Woodruff Road, said it has seen a steady stream of customer who are excited about Clemson's trip to the big dance. "We've got our basketball shirts and our hats sell really well around this time, and our basketballs," said Tyler Crosby, a store clerk and huge Clemson fan. Clemson and Missouri will play at 2:35 p.m. **Wofford Preps For Wisconsin In Jacksonville** Don't expect little ol' Wofford to be overwhelmed. Sure, the Terriers have the smallest enrollment of any team in the NCAA tournament, with about 1,450 students, have no starters taller than 6-6 and are making their debut on college basketball's biggest stage. But the Southern Conference champions have as much confidence and swagger as any of the big boys. When the No. 13 seed Terriers (26-8) take the court against fourth-seeded Wisconsin (23-8) on Friday, they don't anticipate looking like 10-point underdogs just happy to be in the field. Wofford has won 13 in a row and 19 of their last 20. They beat Georgia and South Carolina early in the season, played Illinois tough and took then-No. 9 Michigan State to the wire. Wofford plays Wisconsin at 2:50 p.m.

March 19, 2010

School districts have imposed all sorts of drastic cuts to save money during the down economy, canceling field trips and making parents pay for everything from tissues to sports transportation. And some have now resorted to placing advertisements on school buses. School districts say it's practically free money, and advertisers love the captive audience that school buses provide. That's the problem, say opponents: Children are being forced to travel to school on moving media kiosks, and the tactic isn't much different than dressing teachers in sponsor-emblazoned uniforms. "Parents who are concerned about commercial messages will have no choice," said Josh Golin, associate director of Campaign for a Commercial Free Childhood. "Parents won't be given the option to send their kids on the ad-free bus." Washington lawmakers considered the idea of school bus advertising this year, and the concept is also being tossed around in Ohio, New Jersey and Utah. About half a dozen states already allow bus advertising -- including Colorado, Arizona, Florida, Minnesota, Tennessee and Texas. The idea can be traced back about 15 years, but budget woes have led to a recent resurgence. "This issue comes up on a regular basis when funding gets tight and people are looking for alternative ways to fund school transportation," said John Green, supervisor for school transportation at the California Department of Education. Green has a long list of reasons California has not sold ads on its school buses, despite the regular onslaught of creative parents and lawmakers who suggest the idea to him and other state officials. He says bus ads are rarely as lucrative as the school district expects, they may distract drivers and lead to accidents, and keeping unwanted ads off buses may not be as easy as people think. A highway authority in Southern California recently lost a court case over its attempt to prevent the Minutemen militia group from "adopting a highway" and putting a sign on the freeway. The judge decided the case on First Amendment issues. "I'm thinking that logic would hold for school transportation," Green said. Jim O'Connell, president of Media-Aim of Scottsdale, Ariz., says school bus advertising can be lucrative and in five years of selling the ads for more than 30 districts in Colorado and Arizona, he's never once heard of accident tied to bus advertising. Jefferson County Schools, the largest district in Colorado with more than 84,000 students in 150 schools covering more than 777 square miles, has a three-year contract with First Bank of Colorado that is worth about \$500,000 over four years, said district spokeswoman Melissa Reeves. That translates into about \$7 a day per bus for the length of the contract, still a fraction of the district's total \$959 million budget but important at a time when every dollar counts. In addition to having its logo on 100 of the district's 350 school buses, First Bank also will be prominently displayed in every high school gym, on the district Web page, in district stadiums and company announcements will be made during most varsity sporting events. "It's not as large a revenue generator as you might think," said Mike Griffith, a policy analyst for the Education Commission of the States. Paying a consultant to sell the ads usually cuts the profits enough to discourage districts, he said. School bus advertising has been getting some traction in the past two years, as it did during the 2001 economic downturn, said Griffith. His organization does not keep track of which states allow school bus advertising, but he noted that few states have legislation or rules that specifically disallow it. Washington state Sen. Paull Shin, a Democrat who represents a district north of Seattle, raised the idea during the Legislature this year because the state's \$2.8 billion budget deficit was literally keeping him awake at night with concern about its affect on schools and students, he said. The bill failed. "We thought this would bring a few shekels

to the school boards," he said. In staff meetings when the idea of bus advertising comes up, Green says he quashes the idea by suggesting other school marketing opportunities. "Why not just have the teachers wear a uniform similar to NASCAR drivers?" Green wants to know. "Even though that's kind of a joke, my point is, why do they single out the school bus? Why not paint a billboard alongside the school?"

March 23, 2010

Deputies arrested a man in connection with a burglary that prompted a lockdown at a nearby school on Thursday afternoon. The break in happened at 5 Walkers Spring Court at about 1:45 p.m. Deputies said that the homeowner arrived at the Walkers Spring Court house to find that the front door had been pried open. They said that the woman then noticed a man running away from the home. Authorities responded to the home and set up a perimeter in an effort to find the man. They also locked down Brook Glenn Elementary School, which was nearby. Deputies said that at 2:40 p.m. a K-9 found a man who matched the description provided by the homeowner. They said that the man also had several items with him that were stolen from the home. Wesley Berryman, 24, of Taylors, was charged with burglary and petit larceny in connection with the break in. Berryman also had arrest warrants that were previously issued that charged him with obtaining goods by fraud, financial card transaction theft, petit larceny and auto breaking. Students at the school were dismissed from classes on time.

March 25, 2010

It's not hard to find garnet and black at the Rendeavouz Sports Bar in Greenville. University of South Carolina fans hang out at the club to cheer on the Gamecocks whenever they play. "The kids win the games and the coaches win the games," said Karen Parks, a Gamecocks fan. "That's why it's a team sport." However, there's controversy stirring back at the roost in Columbia. Some lawmakers said the school's board of trustees should be more diverse. Right now, there are 22 board members. Three of them are women, including one African-American woman, Leah Moody, who holds an interim seat. In April, lawmakers will vote on whether she will keep the seat. Some lawmakers said if she does not, they will contact potential recruits and tell them not to play for USC. "I think it's two separate issues," Parks said. "I think that whether this woman is qualified ought to determine whether she's on the board or not." State Rep. Anton Gunn is a USC grad and also a former football player. "I have not called any recruits and I will not call any recruits and urge them not to attend the University of South Carolina," Gunn said Thursday. Gunn said it is important to have diversity but that the most qualified person should be chosen to sit on the board. He also said he doesn't believe lawmakers should choose board members because of the politics involved. "We have very diverse campuses," said Gunn. "We have very diverse student bodies, and I think it's appropriate that the board of trustees reflects that diversity." FOX Carolina has learned that former Byrnes High School football standout Marcus Lattimore, was contacted by a lawmaker. Lattimore said he will still play at USC. Gov. Mark Sanford appointed Moody after a former board member resigned. According to The State newspaper, if Moody loses her seat, USC would be the only school in the Southeastern Conference without an African-American board member.

March 26, 2010

A school bus carrying four students caught fire on Friday morning, officials said. The fire happened near the intersection of Circle Drive and Brushy Creek Road. Oby Lyles, spokesman for Greenville County Schools, said that the driver smelled smoke when he was at a bus stop. He said the driver immediately evacuated four special-needs students from the bus to a nearby house. No one was injured in the fire. The bus was destroyed. Lyles said the state Bus Transportation Department is investigating the cause of the fire.



*Attachments*



*Environment*

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED  
FIRST QUARTER 2010**

Problem/Need: **ENVIRONMENT**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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January 23, 2009

A new rockslide occurred on the closed section of Interstate 40 sometime late Friday night or early Saturday morning, causing rocks and loose material to cover an additional small section of the westbound lanes. This section of interstate has already been closed since Oct. 25, rockslide. No traffic was traveling on this section of highway when the new rockslide occurred. The North Carolina Department of Transportation said the new rockslide occurred at mile marker 6.5, about four miles east of the original slide. It brought down an estimated 500 cubic yards of rock -- the equivalent of about 50 dump truck loads on to the interstate. NCDOT said the largest rock was the size of an SUV and the material on the highway covers an area of 40 feet long and 50 feet wide. NCDOT engineers and geotech experts are reviewing the new site to prepare a clean up plan. Initial assessments indicate there may be additional loose rock on the mountainside that will need to be removed. Since rocks from this new slide are covering part of I-40, it is unclear at this time whether there is damage to the roadway. NCDOT said a few rocks did hit the concrete median between the westbound and eastbound lanes. NCDOT said once a contractor has been hired for the work, estimates are that it will take about two to three weeks to clean up the rockslide. Work could begin by the end of next week. They also set up a plan for managing the construction traffic in the corridor. For about four miles between mile marker 3 to mile marker 7, construction traffic will follow a two-way pattern in the eastbound lanes to get around the new rockslide area.

Travelers still can reach Western North Carolina via I-40 from the east and I-26 to the north and south. Exits 20 and 27 on I-40 provide access to popular destinations west of Asheville. In Tennessee, exits 432 through 451 provide access to popular destinations in southeastern Tennessee. The detour route is 53 miles longer and adds an additional 45 minutes to an hour of driving time. Motorists traveling on I-40 West should take Exit 53B (I-240 West) in Asheville and follow I-240 West to Exit 4A (I-26 West). Follow I-26 West (a North Carolina Scenic Highway) to I-81 South in Tennessee. Take I-81 South and follow it back to I-40 at mile marker 421. Eastbound motorists should use the reverse directions. NCDOT reminded motorists to stay alert, follow instructions on the message boards on the highways, obey the posted speed limit, leave early and travel at non-peak times when possible. Travelers can plan ahead before driving by visiting the NCDOT Traveler Information Management System Web site or calling 511, the state's free travel information line, for current travel conditions.

January 25, 2010

Rivers across much of the area are near or just over full after storms that moved through on Sunday dumped heavy rain. The National Weather Service issued flood warnings for the Saluda River at West Pelzer and near Greenville, the French Broad River and the Broad River. Forecasters said that runoff from Sunday's heavy rain has caused many rivers and streams in the area to swell, causing some flooding near the waterways. Meteorologists said that people who live near bodies of water should keep a close eye on water levels and be prepared to take action if they begin to rise. The storms did not seem to leave too many people in the dark. According to Duke Energy's Web site, about 1,800 customers in the Carolinas were without power. The site said that the highest concentration of outages were near the Hendersonville area in western North Carolina. Only 64 customers were without power in Greenville County as of 9:30 a.m. A winter weather advisory was issued for Graham Swain, northern Jackson, Haywood, Madison, Buncombe, Yancey and Mitchell counties in western North Carolina from 7 p.m. Monday until 7 a.m. Tuesday. Forecasters said that locations on the westward-facing slopes in the advised counties can up to two inches of snow overnight. FOX Carolina meteorologist Andy Wood said that the weather should remain quiet until late in the week when more rain is expected for the area.

January 29, 2010

Forecasters said that a winter storm will bring snow, sleet, ice and rain to the western Carolinas and northeast Georgia by Friday night. The National Weather Service issued a winter storm warning for all of the mountains from noon Friday until 6 p.m. Saturday. The weather service also issued a winter storm for all of the Upstate and northeast Georgia from 6 p.m. Friday until 6 p.m. Saturday. Forecasters said that a storm moving in from the west will gain strength and spread snow across the mountains and northern Upstate by Friday afternoon. They said that the precipitation should transition to a wintry mix by Friday night in the northern Upstate, while heavy snow is expected in the mountains. The weather service said that the southern Upstate can expect a mix of rain, freezing rain and sleet. FOX Carolina meteorologist Andy Wood said that locations along the North Carolina-Tennessee border could see as much as a foot of snow. He said that other locations in the mountains should receive 5 to 10 inches of snow. Wood said that the northern Upstate, including the Greenville and Spartanburg area, could pick up 2 to 5 inches of snow, sleet and freezing rain. He said that accumulations of up to 0.20 inches of ice are possible across the southern Upstate. Forecasters said that a significant amount of ice accumulations could damage power lines and make roads virtually impassable. Stay with FOX Carolina and foxcarolina.com for the latest on this developing story.

February 1, 2010

Some locations are still cleaning up the mess that was left behind by the weekend winter storm. According to Duke Energy's Web site, about 10,000 customers are still without power on Monday morning. The highest concentration of outages was in Swain, Jackson, Graham and Macon counties. The site said that crews are working around the clock to repair the lines in that area. Western North Carolina was the area hardest hit by this weekend's winter storm. The National Weather Service said that Asheville picked up about 7.5 inches of snow. Sunshine in Rutherford County picked up about 9.5 inches of snow and Mars Hill in Madison County picked up about 10 inches of snow, the weather service said. Totals in the upstate ranged from about 3 inches of snow in Travelers Rest in Greenville County to about 0.10 inches of freezing rain in Inman in Spartanburg County. Road crews were still working to clear the roads in most locations in western North Carolina on Monday morning, while warmer temperatures in the Upstate allowed for most of the accumulated wintry precipitation to melt. There were some reports of black ice on Monday morning as Sunday's melt froze overnight. North Carolina Gov. Beverly Perdue said that four people have been killed by the winter storm across the state. So far, only one death related to the winter weather has been reported. FOX Carolina meteorologist Andy Wood said temperatures on Monday should warm into the middle 40s, allowing for more melt during the day. He said that rain is expected on Tuesday. Another chance for wintry weather is forecast for the end of the week.

February 4, 2010

Oconee County deputies said that a road that was shut down by a rock slide on Thursday morning was reopened by the afternoon. The slide happened on Old Clemson Highway near the intersection with Highway 123. Officials said that a car traveling down the road was damaged when the slide happened. Transportation officials cleared the road of debris by Thursday afternoon. They were still trying to determine the cause of the slide. The driver of the car was taken to an area hospital and treated for injuries. There was no immediate word on the driver's condition.

February 5, 2010

As rain ends for the Upstate, forecasters said there was still a chance for some freezing rain in some parts of the mountains on Friday night. Duke Energy's Web site reported at 4:30 p.m. Friday that about 33,400 customers were without power in the western Carolinas. About 16,000 of those customers were clustered in Henderson County, where a state of emergency was declared on Friday morning. Henderson County Manager Steve Wyatt said that a shelter was opened at 1 p.m. for residents who are without power at the First Baptist Church in Hendersonville on Fifth Avenue West. He said that law enforcement is urging residents to stay off the roads. He said that many trees and power lines have fallen across roads throughout the county. FOX Carolina's Marie Wixel, who was in northern Greenville County, said that ice coated the power lines and trees there. She said that high winds caused some of the ice-laden power lines and trees to snap, causing some outages. FOX Carolina's Will Jones, in Asheville, said that snow was flying for much of Thursday night, but that the snow transitioned to sleet and rain by Friday morning.

allowing crews to get a handle on the roads. The Morning News anchor Lauren Elise, in downtown Greenville, said that heavy rain caused the Reedy River to rise quickly, raising concerns of flooding. She said that the river looked more like a white-water rapid than its normal docile flow. The National Weather Service issued a freezing rain advisory for Haywood, Buncombe, Madison, Yancey, Mitchell and McDowell counties in North Carolina until 6 a.m. Saturday

The weather service also issued a flood watch for the southern mountains and all of the Upstate and northeast Georgia until Friday night. Forecasters said that the wintry precipitation in the mountains should transition to all rain by late Friday morning. They said that rainfall amounts of 1-2 inches of rain are possible in the flood watch area. FOX Carolina chief meteorologist Kendra Kent said that snow showers will move through the mountains on Saturday, dropping 1-2 inches of snow on the high mountains. She said that the Upstate will begin drying out on Saturday. Kent said the next chance for rain moves into the western Carolinas on Tuesday.

February 5, 2010

The nasty weather knocked out power to FOX Carolina's transmitter near Brevard, N.C., on Friday morning. FOX Carolina engineers said that a tree fell on a power line, which cut power to the transmitter. Power was restored to the facility on Slick Rock at about 10 a.m. The outage only affected viewers who watch FOX Carolina with an antenna. Most viewers who use cable or satellite service were not affected.

February 5, 2010

Shoppers jammed aisles and emptied stores of milk, bread and shovels Friday as a massive snowstorm blew into the Mid-Atlantic. Forecasters predicted a record 30 inches or more for the nation's capital, and authorities already were blaming the storm for the deaths of father-son Samaritans in Virginia. The region's second snow storm in less than two months could be "extremely dangerous," and heavy, wet snow and strong winds threatened to knock out power, the National Weather Service said. Flakes started falling around noon in Washington, where the federal government sent workers home early. The storm's wide swath and predictions of historic proportions for an area ill-equipped for snow had airlines canceling flights and school districts closing hours before any snow arrived. The last time D.C. got at least 28 inches of snow was in 1922. The city has seen more than a foot only 13 times since 1870, according to the National Weather Service. The storm was expected to track through Virginia and West Virginia, across Maryland into southern New Jersey and Pennsylvania. At a Trader Joe's in Falls Church, Va., Errol Bailey, a 55-year-old tailor who works in northern Virginia, said he'd already stocked up on food at his home in Largo, Md., but realized he should have provisions at work too. "I've got some cashews, some orange juice, some bread, cheese and I'm about to pick up a bottle of wine here now," said Bailey. "I hope I'll be enjoying the wine at home, but if it gets real bad maybe I'll have to pop that open at work." Many residents scrambling for food and supplies found they were too late. In Alexandria, Va., James Ivery, 60, and his wife had already bought supplies but were back at a Harris Teeter supermarket to get out of the house one last time before the storm. Many shelves and bins were emptied of milk, vegetables, eggs and cold cuts. "It just seems like people are panicking. I don't think it's going to be too bad," Ivery said. "As long as I got power and satellite service, I'll be fine." Metro, the Washington-area rail system, said ridership Friday morning was down about one-fourth from the same day last week, a sign people were heeding official warnings to stay home. Metro warned it would likely have to close all but the underground portions of the system during the storm. In western Virginia, a tractor-trailer struck and killed a father and son who had stopped to help another driver who had wrecked in snow on Interstate 81, Virginia State Police said. William Edward Smith Jr., 25, of Morresburg, Tenn., and 54-year-old William Edward Smith Sr. of Sylva, N.C., died at the scene, authorities said. Across the region, transportation officials were deploying thousands of trucks and workers and had hundreds of thousands of tons of salt at the ready. "This is not a good mix," said Joan Morris, a spokeswoman for the Virginia Department of Transportation. "Heavy, wet snow with gusting winds is going to make it a very tough storm for us. I expect visibility will be very poor in spots, and we'll have to deal with drifting snow." Blizzard warnings were in effect for much of Delaware and southern New Jersey from Friday afternoon to Saturday night, with strong winds and blowing, drifting snow. Philadelphia could get about a foot of snow and up

to 20 inches was expected in the Pittsburgh area. The second big storm comes less than two months after a Dec. 19 storm dumped more than 16 inches of snow on Washington. Snowfalls of this magnitude -- let alone two in one season -- are rare in the area. According to the National Weather Service, Washington has gotten more than a foot of snow only 13 times since 1870. The heaviest on record was 28 inches in January 1922. The biggest snowfall for the Washington-Baltimore area is believed to have occurred in 1772, before official records were kept, when as much as 3 feet fell in the Washington-Baltimore area, an epic event George Washington and Thomas Jefferson mentioned in their diaries. Some flights at Reagan National Airport were delayed Friday morning. At least 18 afternoon flights were canceled, including those run by Delta and US Airways. Southwest Airlines canceled Friday afternoon flights at Baltimore, Philadelphia and Washington airports. Amtrak canceled most trains heading south from Washington. Virginia's General Assembly, 100 miles south in Richmond, canceled Friday's floor sessions and committee meetings, the first time anyone could remember that the threat of snow had sent the whole Legislature home. Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell, who has been in office less than a month, declared his second snow emergency, authorizing state agencies to assist local governments. The assistance includes deploying National Guard soldiers and emergency response teams. Between the December storm and several smaller snowfalls, the region's road crews have had plenty of practice in the past two months. Maryland highway officials said they have spent about \$50 million so far clearing and treating roads this winter. That's almost twice the \$26 million that had been budgeted. The Virginia Department of Transportation said it already spent the \$79 million budgeted for statewide snow removal and was tapping into emergency maintenance funds. Once that \$25 million reserve is exhausted, the department said it will have to dip into other programs to cover its costs.

February 10, 2010

Some businesses owners along Hendersonville's Main Street said that they have been hit hard by the winter weather. Beau Rodriguez, owner of Black Bears Coffee Company, said that he typically sees an increase in business when the cold weather hits, but that this year has been different. Rodriguez said that the snow, ice and cold have kept customers stuck at home, keeping them off Main Street. He said that the back-to-back storms have just about closed down the entire street. "Shops couldn't even open," Rodriguez said. "People couldn't get out of their homes, and then at the end of December. So three times in a month. It's just really, really difficult." Many businesses said that they have had to shorten their hours of operation because of power outages and bad roads.

February 11, 2010

Wind knocked a tree down onto a truck traveling on Interstate 26 in Henderson County on Thursday morning. Transportation officials said that the tree fell on the truck at about 6 a.m. near mile marker 43. Troopers said that the driver of the truck was taken to a local hospital. The felled tree blocked one lane of I-26 for several hours.

February 12, 2010

On Thursday, drivers jokingly said they are under attack by potholes on area roads. "They're just so rough," said driver Chasity Green. One driver said that when they get behind the wheel they never know when or if they are going to hit a pesky pothole. "It jars you," said driver Blair Rathbone. "Sometimes it can mess up the treads on your tires." Drivers throughout the Upstate said they have seen some recent potholes pop up in places they have not seen before. Engineers with the South Carolina Department of Transportation said they are trying to keep up too; however, the winter weather, snow and ice storms are not helping at all. "It will attack our roadways, especially when you have cracks in them," said Ryan Dannelly, a maintenance engineer with SCDOT in Greenville County. At the SCDOT office, employees have been taking several calls and sending crews out to patch potholes. "Pressure

from tires get on roadways and before you know it you've got potholes everywhere," Dannelly said. There was a crew patching a pothole at the intersection of Highways 276 and 186 in northern Greenville County on Thursday afternoon. "We go with a mix of either a hot mix, or cold mix and do our best to safe up the location," Dannelly explained. Some drivers said just to see a crew patching potholes made them feel like they were not alone in this war on the road. "I feel good about that," Rathbone said. "I think they ought to keep doing it."

February 23, 2010

Main Street in downtown Greenville is adorned with new sidewalks and is spruced up with trees and lighting, but it didn't always look that way. "The store owners, the condo owners, everybody's very satisfied with the way the Main Street has been kept up and maintained," said Peggy Kourlas. She grew up in Greenville and wanted to stay in the area. "It's a wonderful place to live and work," she said. She recently bought a condo located off Main Street which backs up to Brown Street, an area which is about to get a new look. "It's just a fun, entertaining area and we have the best restaurants and great pubs," she said. Greenville City Council members are working on a \$ 3.3 million project which will revitalize several streets that surround Main Street. "The idea is to attract private investment to these areas," Greenville Mayor Knox White said Monday. The project will include rain gardens, trees and benches and the Rhett Street expansion, which is located in the West End area of Greenville. It will also include new sidewalks, trees and lighting on Brown Street, near the Brown Street Jazz club as well as other streets in the area. White said the project is funded through Greenville's tax district. "Under the new law taxes generated by new development downtown, must stay downtown and be put back into downtown infrastructure. Those funds are not available to spend in other areas of the city," he said. Even though Peggy Kourlas loves her new condo, she's already trying to sell it. She said she's buying into the idea of a new downtown and said the condo is an investment. The project in the Brown Street area has not started yet, but is expected to begin sometime this year.

March 19, 2010

Crews trying to stabilize a mountainside to prevent future rockslides along a closed portion of Interstate 40 in North Carolina say the weather is finally right for getting a lot of work done. A massive rockslide in October closed a stretch of I-40 in the far western part of the state. Crews have been working ever since to clear the boulders and drill rock bolts into the mountain to prevent future slides. Rain, snow and cold weather this winter has slowed the work. Crews said that sunshine and warmer temperatures forecast for Friday or Saturday should help them install 100 more bolts into holes drilled deep in the mountain. Transportation officials say 170 of the 590 rock bolts have already been installed. The road is scheduled to reopen in late April.

March 22, 2010

An Easley woman said Monday that a large pothole caused major damage to her car and that officials are not being very helpful about helping her pay for the repairs. Jennifer Canada said that she was pulling into a Blockbuster off Highway 123 to get a movie. She said that was when she hit a pothole that appeared to be 5 feet wide and 6 inches deep. Canada said that after she hit it, she noticed her car was very loud and seemed to be pulling to the left. She said that she brought it to a mechanic who told her it will cost about \$500 to repair the vehicle. She said that she thinks whoever owns the road should be responsible for the damage. Canada said that the car is the only means of transportation for her family. She said that she has tried calling the city, county and the state, but no one has called her back. She said that no one seems to know who is responsible for filling the pothole. Officials at the Blockbuster store said they have received several complaints about the pothole from customers. So many, in fact, that they have called several agencies trying to have the roadway repaired. They said that nothing has been done, so far. FOX Carolina's Jenna Caiazzo said that she tried to call the South Carolina Department of Transportation on Monday afternoon, but that everyone had left the office for the day. She said that she will try to get in touch with someone on Tuesday to determine who is responsible for maintenance on that section of the state highway.

March 29, 2010

Two fires in an electrical room have forced Progress Energy to shut down its South Carolina nuclear plant. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission said that no workers were injured in the fires on Sunday night at the H. B. Robinson site. The commission also said that the people living around the plant near Hartsville were not in danger. The NRC has sent several investigators to the plant to figure out what caused the fires. Progress Energy said that the first fire started around 7 p.m. in a breaker in the turbine building, while the second happened in an adjacent breaker about four hours later. The blazes were put out in minutes. The utility is waiting to hear from inspectors before deciding when the reactor will be restarted. Workers were scheduled to shut it down and refuel it in mid-April.

March 29, 2010

A line of thunderstorms dropped trees and power lines and spawned at least one tornado as it moved across South Carolina. The Anderson Fire Department said that two people were injured when lightning struck a power line on Sunday night. A woman was taken to the hospital for observation and a man who was sitting at his computer in a neighboring home did not require hospitalization. Officials said that a tornado with winds up to 125 mph blew over trees and damaged five homes near Batesburg-Leesville, making it an EF2 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale. The National Weather Service said that the twister was on the ground for six miles before dissipating around 11:30 p.m. over Lake Murray. Scattered power outages were also reported, along with hail in Spartanburg and Cherokee counties. State Farm said it has had more than 430 automobile claims filed because of hail damage across South Carolina. The insurance company said that more than 160 claims have been filed statewide because of damage to homes and businesses.

March 31, 2010

In a reversal of a long-standing ban on most offshore drilling, President Barack Obama is allowing oil drilling off Virginia's shorelines and considering it for a large chunk of the Atlantic seaboard. At the same time, he's rejecting some new drilling sites that had been planned in Alaska. Obama's plan offers few concessions to environmentalists, who have been strident in their opposition to more oil platforms off the nation's shores. Hinted at for months, the plan modifies a ban that for more than 20 years has limited drilling along coastal areas other than the Gulf of Mexico. Obama was set to announce the new drilling policy Wednesday at Andrews air base in Maryland. White House officials pitched the changes as ways to reduce U.S. reliance on foreign oil and create jobs -- both politically popular ideas -- but the president's decisions also could help secure support for a climate change bill languishing in Congress. The president, joined by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, also was set to announce that proposed leases in Alaska's Bristol Bay would be canceled. The Interior Department also planned to reverse last year's decision to open up parts of the Chukchi and Beaufort seas. Instead, scientists would study the sites to see if they're suitable to future leases. Obama's blueprint would allow Interior to go ahead with oil and gas leases on tracts 50 miles off the coast of Virginia. Those leases had been approved for development but were held up by a court challenge and a departmental review. In addition, an administration official said Obama would allow exploration along the south Atlantic and mid Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf "to support energy planning" -- a step toward potential leasing. The official spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of Obama's announcement. Obama is allowing an expansion in Alaska's Cook Inlet to go forward. The plan also would leave in place the moratorium on drilling off the West Coast. In addition, the Interior Department has prepared a plan to add drilling platforms in the eastern Gulf of Mexico if Congress allows that moratorium to expire. Lawmakers in 2008 allowed a similar moratorium to expire; at the time President George W. Bush lifted the ban, which opened the door to Obama's change in policy. Under Obama's plan, drilling could take place 125 miles from Florida's Gulf coastline if lawmakers allow the moratorium to expire. Drilling already takes place in western and central areas in the Gulf of Mexico. The president's team has been busy on energy policy and Obama talked about it in his State of the Union address. During that speech, he said he wanted the United States to build a new generation of nuclear power plants and invest in biofuel and coal technologies. "It means making tough decisions about opening new offshore areas for

oil and gas development," he warned. Obama also urged Congress to complete work on a climate change and energy bill, which has remained elusive. The president met with lawmakers earlier this month at the White House about a bill cutting emissions of pollution-causing greenhouse gases by 17 percent by 2020. The legislation would also expand domestic oil and gas drilling offshore and provide federal assistance for constructing nuclear power plants and carbon sequestration and storage projects at coal-fired utilities. White House officials hope Wednesday's announcement will attract support from Republicans, who adopted a chant of "Drill, baby, drill" during 2008's presidential campaign. The president's Wednesday remarks would be paired with other energy proposals that were more likely to find praise from environmental groups. The White House planned to announce it had ordered 5,000 hybrid vehicles for the government fleet. And on Thursday, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Transportation Department are to sign a final rule that requires increased fuel efficiency standards for new cars.

March 31, 2010

Flood-weary residents in Rhode Island surveyed the damage as waters started receding, with officials saying Thursday the long-term recovery could take months. "The Pawtuxet River, which impacts our community, crested," said Fire Battalion Chief Joseph Greenwell. "But at this point, there's widespread damage throughout the city from the river, which overflowed its banks." The Northeast, particularly Rhode Island, battled flooded roads and basements for most of the week. Many of the schools in the region remained closed Thursday. "We haven't had anything that's physically washed away yet, but the impact of the floodwaters rushing over the bridges and eroding the foundations of the bridges," Greenwell said. "The water is still too high to determine exactly what the damage is going to be once the floodwaters recede." A rainstorm formed earlier in the week and soaked the Northeast on Tuesday, exacerbating the remaining effects of another major storm from two weeks ago. Rhode Island appeared to fare the worst. It's too early to tell (the financial impact of the floods), but I would guess it will be well into the millions, without a doubt," Greenwell said. Are you affected by flooding? Share photos, videos and stories The storm dumped 8.75 inches of rain in East Providence, 7.6 inches in downtown Providence and 5 inches in Cranston, all in Rhode Island, said Tom Econopouly, a senior hydrologist at the Northeast River Forecast Center in Taunton, Massachusetts. All eyes were on the Pawtuxet River, which runs through Cranston. The river crested at 20.79 feet Wednesday, nearly 12 feet above flood stage, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Advanced Hydrometeorological Service. The water level has started a slow decline. "Pawtuxet River is now falling ... it will remain in major flood status until about midday on Friday," the National Weather Service said. The river will likely not fall below flood stage until Sunday. Cranston Mayor Allan Fung said the city was facing "dire circumstances," even though the weather was cooperating. In Warwick, police and fire officials said they are getting a lot of calls. "We're still handling a lot of pump issues, utility issues," Greenwell said. "This has impacted a number of individual homes with utility issues, flooding in the basement, gas shutoffs, electrical shutoffs, that sort of thing. So it's impacted the utilities quite seriously." Earlier in the week, President Obama extended a state of emergency for the entire state, freeing up federal dollars to help with relief efforts. A spokesman for National Grid Energy Services said 12,000 to 14,000 customers were without electricity in the Cranston area, where a substation was underwater. The police official said a lot of infrastructures were damaged. "Our sewer plant, for one, is submerged. Interstate 95 has been closed down from the impact of the flood," Greenwell said. "(There are) some serious issues for the community, both in time and expense."



*Attachments*



*Government*

**PROGRAMS ADDRESSING PROBLEM OR NEED  
FIRST QUARTER 2010**

Problem/Need: **GOVERNMENT**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
Sundays	10:00 am	FOX NEWS SUNDAY

Description:

Fox News Sunday is a national weekly program with current events and political issues. (60:00)

January 3, 2010

Drivers traveling north on Interstate 385 through Laurens County will now have to find a new way to get to Greenville, as the state transportation department shuts down the highway for several months during construction. Early Monday morning, the South Carolina Department of Transportation shut down the northbound lanes of I-385 from the intersection with Interstate 26 to near the Gray Court exit. That's about a 15-mile stretch. The shutdown will run for about eight months. SCDOT officials said that the closure is part of a \$60 million construction project that will include resurfacing the highway and repairing bridges and overpasses. They said that this 15-mile stretch is considered the worst section of the interstate, which runs from near Clinton in Laurens County to downtown Greenville. The project will include replacing existing asphalt with about 10 inches of concrete, widening the interstate toward the median and replacing the fly-over bridge that connects I-385 and I-26, SCDOT officials said. They said that six other bridges will be raised by about 2 feet. Construction is expected to be completed in August. Lee Neighbors of SCDOT said that this is the first time an interstate has been shut down in South Carolina history. That closure has stirred a lot of controversy, most of it centered on the impact to the local economy along that 15-mile stretch. Another part of the debate has been the nearly 40 miles that is added on to a trip to Greenville from Columbia by the detour that has been set up. Motorists traveling north from Columbia to Greenville will now be forced onto I-26 to Spartanburg, then onto Interstate 85 southbound then onto I-385 in Greenville County. According to Google Maps, the detour adds about 17 minutes onto the trip. The DOT said that closing down the interstate will save the state money and time in the long run. Most drivers who use I-385 every day said they are keeping their eyes on the end result. "It's going to affect me and my trucks," said Jim Meeks, who owns a trucking company. "Anytime you're working in traffic, it's much more dangerous and so much more expensive." "I'm definitely happy the changes are being made," said Dean Youmans, who uses I-385 daily. "It's going to make it easier to get on and off ramps. Driving is going to be a lot better." There are also other detours that drivers can use to get around the closure. Another route lets drivers exit I-26 and Highway 92 and rejoin I-385 northbound near Gray Court, which adds about 21 minutes to the drive time. From Laurens, motorists can take Highway 76 east to Highway 14, which joins I-385 near Owings. Troopers have asked drivers to pay attention to instructional signs near the shutdown and along the detour. They said motorists should slow down and give themselves extra time to get to their destination.

January 13, 2010

A formal reprimand of South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford will be delayed in the state Senate after the House approved the measure rebuking Gov. Mark Sanford for his secret trips to see his Argentine mistress and his improper use of state aircraft. Sen. Jake Knotts said Wednesday the issue needs to be reviewed by a Senate committee. He said Sanford was in no hurry to get back to the state after his rendezvous and senators shouldn't hurry to rubber stamp the House resolution, which passed by a 102-11 vote. Senate leaders said sidelining the bill in committee could kill the measure passed by the House. The rebuke says the two-term Republican was derelict in his duty and abused his power. It has no practical effect on the final year of Sanford's tenure.

January 13, 2010

The ongoing ethics probe of Gov. Mark Sanford has cost his campaign at least \$185,347. Sanford's campaign finance report filed on Wednesday shows three payments to Columbia law firm Hall & Bowers LLC. The legal payments exclude costs of state-paid lawyers hired to defend Sanford's office during the House's impeachment hearings last month. The impeachment effort failed but the House passed a formal rebuke of Sanford on Wednesday by a 102-11 vote. The measure could stall in the

Senate. Sanford's campaign finance report also shows he continues to spend heavily with his campaign adviser. The fourth-quarter financial report shows Red Sea Llc of Bethesda, Md., was paid \$66,100 in October. Sanford spent a total of \$259,052 during the quarter and has \$1.4 million remaining in his campaign account.

January 23, 2010

Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer said poor parents of students who eat free or reduced-price meals in school cafeterias should be required to attend parent-teacher conferences, or the students should go without. The Greenville News reported Saturday that Bauer drew a comparison between "feeding stray animals" and doling out government assistance. Bauer said the government can't afford to keep giving money away without requiring something in return, adding that low-income people receiving assistance should lose their benefits if they don't pass drug tests, and parents should be required to be more active in their children's education. The gubernatorial candidate made the remarks during a town hall meeting Friday in Fountain Inn. Bauer did not immediately return a call Saturday from The Associated Press.

January 25, 2010

South Carolina Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer is catching some flack for comments he reportedly made during a town hall meeting in Fountain Inn on Friday. **Poll:** [Should Andre Bauer apologize for his comments about the poll?](#) According to The Greenville News, Bauer drew a comparison between "feeding stray animals" and doling out government assistance. "My grandmother was not a highly educated woman, but she told me as a small child to quit feeding stray animals," Bauer said according to audio from the town hall meeting released on the newspaper's Web site. "You know why? Because they breed! You're facilitating the problem. If you give an animal or person an ample food supply they will reproduce, especially one that don't think too much further than that." The newspaper reported that Bauer said the government cannot afford to keep giving money away without requiring something in return, adding that low-income people receiving assistance should lose their benefits if they do not pass drug tests, and parents should be required to be more active in their children's education. In an interview with FOX Carolina on Monday, Bauer said that the media and his political opponents have distorted what he was really trying to say. "Clearly, I wish I had used a different metaphor, but my message was on target," Bauer said. "What I said was is that we've got a welfare system that's broken. We encourage people to stay on a system that's broken." Bauer, a Republican candidate for governor, said that the current government assistance program promotes "generational welfare" instead of giving people the tools they need to get off of the system. "I encourage people, instead of throwing stones, instead of trying to make me demonized, let's talk about real ways to break this cycle," Bauer said. Some of Bauer's political opponents released statements chastising the lieutenant governor for his choice of words.

"I condemn Bauer's attack on hungry children because their parents don't have a job," said Democratic gubernatorial candidate Dwight Drake. Republican gubernatorial candidate Rep. Gresham Barret said that he agrees that there should be stronger regulations for parents on welfare. "Drug testing would be excellent if we can devise a new way to pass constitutional muster," Barret said. "The bottom line is we need to decrease dependency, hold parents accountable and do it all without hurting kids." South Carolina superintendent of education and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jim Rex called on Bauer to apologize. "If the intent of Lt. Gov. Bauer's remarks was to blame children, who are not responsible for their own predicaments, or to blame adults, who want to work but cannot find jobs, it is regrettable," Rex said. "It is reprehensible that a statewide elected official would compare his fellow citizens to stray animals." State Sen. Vincent Sheheen, also a Democratic candidate for governor, said he was disgusted by Bauer's statements and called on him to apologize to South Carolina's unemployed workers and their families. A large majority of voters in an unofficial foxcarolina.com poll said that Bauer should not apologize for his comments.

January 26, 2010

Hours after the release of an audit that shows major shortcomings at the South Carolina Employment Security Commission, legislators are putting an overhaul of the agency on a fast track. The Senate voted 41-2 on Tuesday afternoon to take up changes. The Legislative Audit Council review said South Carolina's unemployment agency let cash to pay jobless benefits dwindle since 2001 and did nothing before 2008 to head off insolvency. The council's report said that the ESC was paying \$2 million a day more than it had as early as 2001. The report said that auditors found no indication the legislature was informed of the changes by the commission before the middle of 2008. State law requires the commission to notify lawmakers when it is having financial difficulties. South Carolina has had to borrow \$736 million to pay unemployment benefits since late 2008. The report said that the agency is to blame for pushing legal changes that reduced cash reserves and ultimately accelerated the shortfall in the fund. The audit also makes 26 recommendations for an overhaul. They include ending benefits for workers who lose their jobs for drinking, drugs or sleeping at work. Gov. Mark Sanford has made the overhaul a top priority for his last year

in office. Sanford and legislative leaders pushed changes for the commission last year, but legislators balked at major changes until an audit was completed. The term-limited governor said last week in his State of the State speech that legislators need to put the agency into his Cabinet because it is currently not accountable to state leaders

January 27, 2010

South Carolina legislators will consider a bill that bans texting while driving and chatting in the car with a hand-held phone. The bill is up for debate on Wednesday in a House Education subcommittee. It would ban drivers from sending text messaging or using a hand-held cell phone. The bill allows the use of handsfree devices while driving. Anyone convicted of the misdemeanor crime could be fined up to \$100.

January 27, 2010

The Greenville News reported Wednesday that the Greer City Council is considering several ways of closing the budget gap this year, including raising taxes. The newspaper reported that city leaders are trying to make up for a \$1.3 million budget shortfall. Some of the ideas include raising trash collection fees by \$9.50 a month, millage increases that would amount to an additional \$28 on a \$100,000 home and charging a fee for hauling off bulky trash items like appliances. The newspaper said that the council will consider the proposals when it meets again on Feb. 10. If approved, some of the increases would go into effect immediately.

February 15, 2010

U.S. Sen. Lindsay Graham said that he understands America needs to stick to its ideals of justice and fairness to win the war on terror. The Republican from South Carolina said that the country also needs to protect its military secrets and make sure it can detain militants as long as possible when their main goal is to return to the battlefield and fight. Graham spoke to reporters Monday, saying he wants to work with President Barack Obama to create a process that allows for military trials for terror suspects. Graham said that he wants the suspects to have due process and the trials to be as open as possible. The senator from Central was joined by former 4th Court of Appeals Chief Judge Billy Wilkins, who said civilian courts aren't set up to protect secret information.

February 16, 2010

Clemson became the first city in South Carolina to make texting while driving illegal. The Clemson City Council voted unanimously to ban the practice during a meeting on Monday night. The new ordinance will go into effect in June. Drivers found guilty of violating the new law could face a fine of \$100, including court costs. Many council members said that they were compelled by recent information claiming that a texting driver is as dangerous as a drunken driver intoxicated to twice the legal limit. The measure also has a provision that allows police to check a suspected violator's phone to see when the last text message was sent. State lawmakers have been considering a statewide ban on texting while driving. There is also a bill that would ban all hands-on cell phone use by a driver. Both bills are making their way through the Legislature this session.

February 16, 2010

South Carolina legislators said they want to close loopholes in a payday lending law that took effect earlier this month. A law passed last year limits people to one loan at a time, of up to \$550. It requires lenders to check a new online database to ensure borrowers have no outstanding loans elsewhere. Senators said Tuesday that payday lenders are skirting the law by re-characterizing their business. They said that companies are switching their licenses so they can give similar loans and not deal with the database. Senators said that they're tired of the industry finding ways around legislation meant to curb predatory practices. The bill is up for debate by the full Senate.

February 17, 2010

South Carolina lawmakers want to make holiday family gatherings more sobering. A bill sponsored by two dozen House members would ban alcohol sales on Christmas Day and Thanksgiving Day. Legislators were to debate the bill Wednesday afternoon, but the meeting was canceled. The measure expands the state's ban on Sunday and election day alcohol sales. Punishment could climb to a \$2,000 fine or two years in prison for violators.

February 18, 2010

Golf carts could be a more common sight on South Carolina's roads. A House subcommittee Wednesday agreed to increase the range allowed for the mostly electric-powered vehicles to five miles from the current two miles. Approval came despite misgivings of Public Safety Director Mark Keel. He had no data showing deaths or serious injuries in cart collisions but said they would be expected. Republican Rep. Tom Young of Aiken said the current law has been on the books for 23 years with no data on deaths to show cart drivers are being killed or injured. Young sponsored the bill and said carts will help people spend less on gas. The bill now moves to the full Education and Public Works Committee.

February 18, 2010

A South Carolina bill designed to curb violence between dating teens has advanced. A Senate Education subcommittee approved a bill Wednesday to require school districts to adopt dating violence policies and discipline guidelines. Columbia Rep. Joan Brady says it will bring awareness to a growing, dangerous problem. The Republican says early intervention will help break the cycle of domestic violence that's so pervasive in South Carolina. South Carolina consistently ranks high in the rate of women killed by men. The Violence Policy Center in Washington currently ranks the state eighth nationwide. The bill now goes to the full Senate Education Committee. The House passed it last month.

February 19, 2010

A campaign consultant said that Charleston lawyer Mullins McLeod will leave the Democratic race for South Carolina governor and endorse statesmen. Vincent Sheheen of Camden. McLeod's general consultant, Lachlan McIntosh, said McLeod would appear at a news conference late Friday morning and endorse Sheheen. McIntosh said McLeod will not run for any other post. McLeod's exit is the first from the Democrat side of what had been a five-way race. Republicans had their first casualty of the race last month when state Sen. Larry Grooms dropped of the GOP's five-way race. Candidates have said raising money has been tough. McLeod was a distant third in raising cash for the campaign to replace Republican Governor Mark Sanford. . His second term ends in January 2011.

February 23, 2010

With President Barack Obama's health care overhaul in limbo, Americans' fears about its effect on them eased in January, according to a poll released as the president tries to revive sweeping Democratic legislation. The monthly poll from the nonpartisan Robert Wood Johnson Foundation also found that three-fourths of Americans still think it's important that Obama include health care reform in addressing the nation's economic crisis -- even if many have misgivings. "Job numbers continue to lag and nearly a quarter of Americans are still concerned they might lose coverage," said Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, president of the foundation, a philanthropic and research organization that supports health care reform. The poll found that the proportion of Americans who said they feared their access to doctors and hospitals would get worse under the Democratic plans dropped to 29 percent, from 33 percent who had expressed such concerns in December. In the January poll fewer than 12 percent said that they thought their access would improve. Obama's plan -- and the Democratic health care bills -- would extend coverage to around 95 percent of Americans -- up from about 84 percent today. They would require most Americans to carry health insurance, with government help to make premiums more affordable. Insurance companies would be barred from denying coverage to people with health problems. New insurance markets would be created for small businesses and people who buy their own coverage, but Americans covered through large employers would not see major changes. That plan -- or something very close to it -- appeared to be only a step away from Obama's desk until Jan. 19, when Massachusetts voters elected Republican Scott Brown to replace the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy. Democrats lost their 60-vote Senate majority, and the ability to override Republican objections to the bill. Health care overhaul slipped into congressional limbo, and has been stuck there ever since. The poll, taken Jan. 3-Jan. 26, coincided with Brown's upset victory and the reversal of the health plan's fortunes. But it was not possible to tell from the data if that led to the shift in public opinion on access to care. On other measures, pessimists tended to outnumber optimists on health care overhaul. -- Nearly 31 percent said they thought the Democratic bills would make their personal financial situation worse, compared with 10 percent who said it would improve their family budgets. --Forty-two percent said the nation's fiscal condition would suffer because of the legislation, compared

with 26 percent who said it would get better. --Americans were divided on whether the Democrats' approach would improve overall access to health care around the country, with 35 percent saying it would, and nearly that many disagreeing. The telephone poll of about 500 people has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.4 percentage points. It also found a slight improvement in consumer confidence in their health insurance coverage and their ability to get the care they need.

February 24, 2010

South Carolina legislators have approved a bill allowing officers to search people released on probation or parole without a warrant. The House approved the bill by an 81-26 vote on Wednesday. Democrats complained it allows officers to search anyone they want under the guise they thought the person was on probation. The measure allows officers to bypass going to a judge for a warrant before searching people on probation or parole. Inmates must agree to the searches before they're released. House Speaker Bobby Harrell said probationers or parolees are still being punished and shouldn't receive the same privacy as law-abiding citizens. He said it's about public safety. The bill needs another perfunctory vote in the House before returning to the Senate, which passed a similar version last year.

February 25, 2010

A new Winthrop University poll shows that the public barely knows the eight candidates running for governor in South Carolina. The Winthrop Poll released Thursday shows at least 65 percent of Democrats were unfamiliar with their field of four candidates. Among Republicans, Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer emerged as the only candidate who was known well enough by nearly half of the voters for them to form a good or bad opinion -- and those voters were not familiar with his three competitors. Observers said that means candidates will have to spend a lot of money before June 8 to become more well known. The telephone poll with 837 adults responding was conducted Feb. 6-21 and has a margin of sampling error of 3.4 percentage points.

February 25, 2010

Microbrewery owners in South Carolina said that a bill allowing people to sample their beer on site will increase their sales while boosting tourism. A House Judiciary subcommittee on Wednesday approved measures to allow microbreweries and specialty retail stores to offer limited beer samplings. State law already allows wine and liquor samplings. South Carolina Brewer's Association president Jaime Tenny said that she wants South Carolina to be a travel destination for beer connoisseurs, much like wine enthusiasts trek to Napa Valley. Tenny is also co-owner of COAST Brewing Co. in North Charleston. The bill would require microbreweries to include tours with their samplings, and they could then sell a limited amount.

March 5, 2010

Democrat Dwight Drake is dropping out of the South Carolina governor's race. The Columbia attorney and lobbyist announced his withdrawal Friday, citing his difficulty in raising money. Drake said that while he's leaving the race, he's still committed to improving the state. He said that he clearly can't raise the resources necessary to be competitive. Charleston lawyer Mullins McLeod left the Democratic race two weeks ago. Drake's departure leaves Sens. Vincent Sheheen, of Camden, and Robert Ford, of Charleston, and state Education Superintendent Jim Rex vying for the Democratic nomination in the June primary. Republicans seeking their party's nomination are U.S. Rep. Gresham Barrett, Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer, state Rep. Nikki Haley and Attorney General Henry McMaster.

March 5, 2010

Gov. Mark Sanford has appointed a new clerk of court in an Upstate county to replace one who resigned as he faces charges he stole and sold drugs from an evidence lockup. Sanford on Friday named Hope Blackley to the Spartanburg County post, replacing Marcus Kitchens. Kitchens resigned last month following his arrest after authorities said he made a \$3,000 payment to a man he thought would find a buyer for the drugs. He also faces federal charges of stealing the drugs. Blackley lives in Boiling Springs near the county seat of Spartanburg and works on Sanford's staff as the state's crime victim ombudsman. Sanford said Blackley is a reformer who will make sure incidents like the one involving Kitchens do not happen again. Blackley is both the first woman and the first African-American to hold the office in Spartanburg County.

March 9, 2010

A former South Carolina lawmaker and judge launched his bid to oust Sen. Jim DeMint in the upcoming Congressional elections. Democrat Victor Rawl opened his campaign in Charleston on Monday, but stopped at the Democratic conventions in Greenville and Spartanburg on Monday night. The 64-year-old Rawls is in his first term as a Charleston County councilman. He is also a former circuit court judge and served four terms in the legislature. "I am running because I think South Carolina needs a choice," Rawls said. "I am tired of hearing bad rumors about South Carolina from everywhere I travel and I think its time for someone to be in office who's not content to just say no to everything." Rawl will face former Auto Workers Union executive Mike Ruckers, of Summerville. Rock Hill attorney Chad McGowan dropped out of the Democratic race last month. DeMint is seeking a second term as senator in November. He served three terms in the U.S. House before winning the Senate seat in 2004.

March 18, 2010

The South Carolina House has sent the Senate a \$5 billion budget for the coming year, after an all-night session that focused on abortion, cigarette taxes and a loan to a golf tournament. The House approved the budget 64-52 Thursday morning, with a final vote minutes later. The plan raises the state's cigarette tax by 30 cents per pack to 37 cents. The money goes to a trust fund for Medicaid expenses. The plan also bans most abortions for those covered by the state insurance plan, the only exception being to save a mother's life. The bill promises to loan the state's only PGA golf tournament \$10 million if it cannot find a new sponsor. The budget is down from \$7 billion two years ago. It allows furloughs of state employees as a way of dealing with cuts. Layoffs are expected across most state agencies.

March 18, 2010

South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford has agreed to pay \$74,000 to settle charges that his travel and campaign spending violated state ethics laws. This on the same day a judge finalizes his divorce from Jenny Sanford. The judge finalized the couple's divorce, ending their 20-year marriage. Court records show Family Court Judge Jocelyn Cate issued her ruling Thursday, less than three weeks after the first lady appeared, asking to end the marriage because of her husband's adultery. The governor disappeared for several days last summer, then admitted when he returned to the state that he was having an affair with a woman in Argentina. The couple have four children. Jenny Sanford has moved with her sons to their beachfront home along the South Carolina coast. Mark Sanford is the first sitting governor to ever get a divorce in South Carolina. The state became the last in the country to allow divorce in 1949. **Sanford Agrees To Pay \$74,000 In Ethics Fines** The Republican governor is accused of breaking 37 laws, including improperly using pricey plane tickets for a trip to Argentina where he saw the mistress he infamously called his soul mate. Under a consent agreement signed Thursday, Sanford does not admit guilt but does not contest the charges either. The charges were brought after Associated Press investigations into the governor's commercial travel and flights on state planes. Sanford also is accused of improperly reimbursing himself with campaign money. The State Ethics Commission approved the agreement on Thursday. Sanford is term-limited and will leave office in January.

March 19, 2010

South Carolina's lieutenant governor has publicly launched his bid for governor with a statewide tour. Republican Andre Bauer said that he's traveling around the state to hear what's on residents' minds. His 24-hour fly around began Monday morning at a restaurant in Spartanburg. Bauer plans eight more stops Monday, including his home in Greer. He plans five stops on Tuesday before going to Columbia to preside over the Senate at noon. The kickoff tour includes visits at colleges, fire stations, gas stations, and hotels. Bauer has been in the race to replace the term-limited Gov. Mark Sanford but had not formally announced his candidacy. Bauer faces Attorney General Henry McMaster, U.S. Rep. Gresham Barrett and state Rep. Nikki Haley in the June 8 primary.

March 22, 2010

South Carolina Attorney General Henry McMaster is again promising a legal challenge of the health care reform measure passed by the U.S. House on Sunday. **Continuing Coverage:** Read More About The Health Care Bill McMaster issued a statement late Sunday calling the health care legislation "clearly unconstitutional." He said that he will join Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum in challenging the measure. McCollum's office said Friday he would join the challenge. McMaster and

McCollum are seeking the Republican gubernatorial nominations in their states. McMaster had said the measure violates state sovereignty because it requires all Americans to have some form of health insurance. The Attorney General said he took part in a conference call on Sunday night and expects attorneys general in nine other states to join the challenge. Also seeking the Republican nomination for governor in South Carolina is Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer, state Rep. Nikki Haley and Rep. Gresham Barrett. On the Democratic side, state Sen. Robert Ford, Education Superintendent Jim Rex and state Sen. Vincent Sheheen are seeking the gubernatorial nomination.

March 22, 2010

All of the Congressmen in the Upstate, western North Carolina and northeast Georgia voted down the health care bill that passed Congress on Sunday. The vote was virtually split down party lines with one exception. Democratic Rep. Heath Shuler, of North Carolina's 11th District, sided with all the Republican Congressmen of the region by voting "nay" on the landmark health care bill. His colleague, Republican Rep. Patrick McHenry, of North Carolina's 10th District, voted down the bill as well. Along with Shuler and McHenry, Rep. Gresham Barrett, who is also seeking the Republican gubernatorial nomination in South Carolina, also voted against the bill. Rep. Bob Inglis, of South Carolina's 4th District, voted against the bill as well. South Carolina Rep. Joe Wilson also voted down the legislation. Wilson jumped into the national spotlight when he shouted "You lie" at President Barack Obama during an address to a joint session of Congress last year. Democratic House Majority Whip and South Carolina Rep Jim Clyburn of South Carolina's 6th District, voted for the bill. Although he does not represent any voters in the Upstate of South Carolina, Clyburn has been one of the most outspoken supporters for the health care legislation. Republican Rep. Paul Brown, of Georgia's 10th District, also voted against the health care bill.

March 22/23, 2010

The landmark health care bill about to be signed into law is as large as it is due in no small part to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's stewardship. When Democrats in Congress and the White House were despondent and inclined to retreat on health care just two months ago, Pelosi stood firm against despair and downsizing. As a result, she could emerge from the yearlong struggle among the most powerful speakers in history. "It's safe to say that she's going to change some of the ways that we look at effective speakers, and maybe create a new definition of how to get things done under incredibly difficult circumstances," said Ray Smock, who was House historian for a dozen years under former speakers Tip O'Neill, Jim Wright and Tom Foley. Those close to Pelosi say she considers health care reform a moral imperative that transcends political ambitions and election cycles. But she invoked those baser ambitions, too, as she coaxed and cajoled everyone from President Barack Obama and his aides to her Democratic troops behind a bill to extend health coverage to 32 million uninsured Americans. "We are not kicking this can down the road," Pelosi told Obama by phone last month just before their seven-hour televised health care conference, according to Rep. Louise Slaughter of New York and three other officials who heard the call. It was an abrupt reminder to those on the White House end of the line: Whatever is said at the big bipartisan meeting, there would be no substantive rewrite of the bill as Republicans were demanding. Obama said he understood and agreed: They were moving in one direction only, toward passage. And soon. "She has this singular focus," Slaughter said Monday. "This really is her bill." It is, of course, Obama's bill, too. The president campaigned on making health care reform his top domestic priority, shuttled around the country selling the idea on a skeptical public, leaned hard on lawmakers and postponed a foreign trip to see it through. But there probably would be no comprehensive health care bill without Pelosi's influence, which extended beyond Capitol Hill. When Democrats panicked after Republican Scott Brown won Edward Kennedy's Senate seat, Pelosi rebuffed feelers by White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel and others for a smaller version of the bill. She dismissed that approach as incrementalism and derisively dubbed it, "kiddie care." Observers said Pelosi succeeded in part because of her willingness to work each wavering member's political calculus, their concerns and their moods for a year until the arithmetic added up to the crucial 216 votes required for passage. And that didn't happen until a few hours before the vote late Sunday night, a 219-212 victory. There was a swagger in her. As Congress was leaving town for last summer's recess, she challenged the notion that liberals in the party might sink the bill because it was not ideologically pure. "Are you asking me, 'Are the progressives going to take down universal, quality, affordable health care for all Americans?'" she told reporters. "I don't think so." With some lawmakers, she was abrupt. In a private caucus meeting in October, Rep. Earl Pomeroy, D-N.D., interrupted Pelosi's presentation about one version of the bill with questions about its cost. According to Pomeroy and others, she cut him off -- twice -- with a question of her own: Is there any version you could support? she asked. Yes, he said, but not the one likely to pass. Pelosi moved on. They patched things up, and on the final vote Sunday, Pomeroy was a yes. The final crunch did not come until a week before the vote. On the plane from her home near San Francisco back to Washington, Pelosi began making calls to the 68 Democrats said to be wavering on the bill. Pelosi, the first female speaker of the House, is a former Democratic whip, the vote counter, and clearly has not lost that skill. With others, she delegated. A knowledgeable Democratic official said that Pelosi, a Roman Catholic, asked the Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, president emeritus of Notre Dame and frequent appointee to



presidential commissions, to call Rep. Joe Donnelly of Indiana on behalf of the legislation. In the end, Donnelly voted yes. As the week wore on, Pelosi peeled off Rep. Marcy Kaptur of Ohio, one of the Democrats holding out because they did not consider the bill to have an adequate firewall against taxpayer dollars being used to subsidize abortion coverage. Kaptur said in a telephone interview that on the House floor and elsewhere, she suggested some ways to amend the bill. And each time Pelosi made clear that that would be impossible. "She just shook her head to me, and I knew that the option was off the table," Kaptur said. "Through body language, facial expressions, she lets you know that." Kaptur worked through her concerns with the White House and endorsed the bill on the day of the vote. And by convening the rest of that faction in one room of the speaker's suite and female abortion-rights Democrats in a nearby parlor, Pelosi was able to broker the content of a presidential executive order that reinstated existing law banning federal money from being used for elective abortions. The speaker didn't succeed with everyone. On Thursday, she could be spotted sitting in a back corner of the House chamber with Rep. Zack Space of Ohio for more than 30 minutes, talking health care reform. In the end, Space was one of 34 Democrats who voted no. Even Pelosi's top Republican detractor, GOP Leader John Boehner, acknowledges her skill. But in her drive, he said, Pelosi stopped listening to Americans "screaming" to stop. "She is a strong speaker, there isn't any question about that," Boehner said. But if Democrats lose their majority because of the legislation, "How smart is that?"

March 23, 2010

A beaming President Barack Obama on Tuesday signed a historic \$938 billion health care overhaul that guarantees coverage for 32 million uninsured Americans and will touch nearly every citizen's life, presiding over the biggest shift in U.S. domestic policy since the 1960s and capping a divisive, yearlong debate that could define the November elections. Celebrating "a new season in America" -- the signature accomplishment of his White House so far and one denied to a line of presidents before him -- Obama made the massive bill law with an East Room signing ceremony. He was joined by jubilant House and Senate Democrats as well as lesser-known people whose health care struggles have touched the president. Obama scheduled back-to-back events to mark the moment, with much of his White House audience, as well as hundreds of others, gathering at the Interior Department for Act II immediately after the signing. "With all the punditry, all the lobbying, all the game-playing that passes for governing here in Washington, it's been easy at times to doubt our ability to do such a big thing, such a complicated thing, to wonder if there are limits to what we as a people can still achieve," Obama said, his remarks interrupted by applause after nearly every sentence. "We are not a nation that scales back its aspirations. We are not a nation that falls prey to doubt or mistrust. We don't fall prey to fear. We are not a nation that does what's easy. That's not who we are. That's not how we got here." The president's victory lap proceeded even as Congress labored to complete the overhaul with a companion measure making changes to the main bill that were a condition of House Democrats' approval. Debate on that bill, also passed Sunday by the House, could begin Tuesday in the Senate. Not everyone was cheering the new law. Attorneys general from 13 states filed suit to stop the overhaul just minutes after the bill signing, contending the law is unconstitutional. Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum took the lead in the lawsuit, joined by colleagues from South Carolina, Nebraska, Texas, Michigan, Utah, Pennsylvania, Alabama, South Dakota, Louisiana, Idaho, Washington and Colorado. Other GOP attorneys general may join the lawsuit later or sue separately. In Washington, Republicans remained firm in their opposition to the giant remake of the nation's health system, declaring it much too costly and unlikely to produce the results that Obama claims. The Republicans pledged to see Democrats punished in this fall's elections for approving the legislation over deep public skepticism. "By signing this bill, President Obama is abandoning our founding principle that government governs best when it governs closest to the people," said House Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio. "Never before has such a monumental change to our government been carried out without the support of both parties. This debate has fostered unprecedented division at a time when this nation needs to come together and address the serious challenges we face." With that in mind, and with many of the law's most sweeping changes not to take effect for years, Obama emphasized the overhaul's most immediate impacts, including the ability of young adults to remain on their parents' health plans and a ban on insurers denying coverage to sick children. "We have now just enshrined the core principle that everybody should have some basic security when it comes to their health," the president said. The second, much larger event had an even more combative, campaign-like feel. Obama thanked the players from labor unions to grass-roots supporters who helped push the bill forward, and openly criticized Republicans for "still making a lot of noise about what this reform means." "Look it up for yourself," he urged the public. "You don't have to take my word for it, you'll see it in your own lives." The White House did everything possible to make sure Obama's appearances carried the day without competition. A planned announcement of the administration's new drug control policy by Vice President Joe Biden was called off, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs declined to hold his regular daily briefing for reporters, and all Obama's meetings were closed to coverage, including one with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The day was about more than celebration. It marked the launch of an aggressive sales job Obama will undertake to turn around public opinion on the legislation and help save Democrats -- particularly those from conservative-leaning districts -- who stand to suffer most in the fall elections from casting votes for the bill. That effort continues Thursday when Obama visits Iowa City, Iowa, where as a presidential candidate he announced his health care plan in May 2007. Obama's historic achievement was

sealed late Sunday, when the House voted 219-212 -- without a single Republican in favor -- to send the 10-year bill to Obama. Passed by the Senate in December, the bill eventually will extend coverage to 32 million uninsured Americans and ban such insurance company practices as denying coverage to people with medical problems. The House also passed the companion measure on Sunday, by a 220-211. Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., says he has the votes to pass it in his chamber -- though only under special budget rules requiring just a simple majority vote. Republicans plan to offer scores of amendments to slow or change that bill and stymie Democratic hopes to see it approved as written and sent directly to Obama for his signature. The first changes under the overhaul take effect by the end of September. Other changes would not kick in until 2014. By then, most Americans will for the first time be required to carry health insurance -- through an employer, through a government program or by buying it for themselves. Those who refuse will face penalties from the IRS. Tax credits to help pay for premiums also will start flowing to middle-class working families with incomes up to \$88,000 a year, and Medicaid will be expanded to cover more low-income people. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said the bill awaiting Obama's signature would cut federal budget deficits by an estimated \$143 billion over a decade. The second measure, which House Democrats demanded before agreeing to the first one, includes money to close a gap in Medicare prescription drug coverage over the next decade.

March 24, 2010

Gubernatorial candidate Nikki Haley said that South Carolina's colleges need to give up independent boards so the state can afford its college system. Republican Rep. Haley was one of six candidates from both parties who debated higher education issues Tuesday at Winthrop University. Democratic state Education Superintendent Jim Rex said that the state needs to raise its cigarette tax to lift college budgets that are now operating at 1984 levels. Republican Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer said he could only support increasing the state's cigarette tax if that money was used to lower the state's income tax. Four Republicans and three Democrats are seeking their party's nominations in the June 8 primary in bids to replace Gov. Mark Sanford.

March 30, 2010

South Carolina's former state insurance director is running for lieutenant governor. Eleanor Kitzman announced on Monday she's running as a Republican. The 53-year-old Columbia resident notes she's the only candidate for the job who's run a state agency. She was state insurance director from 2005 to 2007, when she resigned over a disagreement with Gov. Mark Sanford on coastal insurance. Kitzman founded Driver's Choice Insurance in South Carolina in 1999, after a change in state law allowed insurers to specialize in vehicle coverage. She grew the company to 50 employees before selling it. Kitzman will face Ken Ard, of Florence; Bill Connor, of Orangeburg; and Larry Richter, of Charleston, in the June 8 primary. South Carolina has not elected a female lieutenant governor since 1978.

March 30, 2010

South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford has signed into law an overhaul of the troubled Employment Security Commission. Sanford signed the bill on Tuesday that transforms that agency into a Cabinet-level Workforce Department. The measure allows Sanford to appoint a temporary director who will run the agency through early next year when Sanford's successor will choose a director. "As we've made clear for more than a year and a half now, the ESC's ineptitude and disturbing lack of accountability have had real world consequences," Sanford said before signing the bill. "This legislation both increases accountability to the taxpayers and restores the core mission of connecting people looking for a job with employment opportunities." The agency has faced criticism for more than a year. Auditors found the commission did not do enough to head off the need to borrow what has amounted to \$838 million to keep unemployment benefits paid. They also said the agency lacked accounting skills and collected but did not pay income taxes on benefits for months last year.

March 31, 2010

South Carolina lawmakers are scheduled to begin discussions on raising the nation's lowest cigarette tax. Debate is expected to begin on Wednesday in the Senate on a tax increase the House approved last year to the current rate of 7 cents a pack. By a 97-22 vote last year, the House approved a 50-cent increase that would generate \$139 million for a new health insurance program for low-income workers. The Senate's version of the increase does not spend the money on that health care plan. Instead, supporters want nearly all the money set aside and used to help cover shortfalls next year in the state's Medicaid budget. Beyond that, they want to have enough money to cover rising Medicaid program costs expected under the new federal health care law.

## *Attachments*



## *Jobs, Economy, Growth*

**ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED  
FIRST QUARTER 2010**

Problem/Need: **JOBS/ECONOMY/GROWTH**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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January 14, 2010

A company that makes brakes for General Motors, Ford, Toyota and Nissan plans to add about 280 jobs at a South Carolina plant. The State newspaper reported Thursday that Japanese-based Akebono Brake Corp. is consolidating some of its business in Lexington County. Akebono spokesman Brandon Kessinger said that the company is expanding the plant near the Columbia Metropolitan Airport that it bought from The Bosch Group. He said that the company is essentially doubling the employment at the plant. Kessinger said that much of the work and equipment is coming from the closing of a Knoxville, Tenn., plant Akebono bought last year. Lexington County officials said that the company plans to spend \$28 million on the expansion.

January 22, 2010

A textile company plans to expand its operations and will create 50 new jobs in northern South Carolina. The Herald-Journal of Spartanburg reported that Suminoe Textile of America said Thursday it will invest \$6.5 million to expand its operations in Cherokee County. The company said it will convert an existing building into a carpet facility. The company makes seat coverings, flooring and throw mats for automotive manufacturers. Hiring is expected to begin late next month.

January 26, 2010

The Anderson Independent Mail reported that the county council is considering pay cuts for Anderson County employees. The newspaper reported that the council has concerns over the 2010-2011 budget, which has prompted them to considering reverting to the 2007 salary scale. Interim Administrator Rusty Burns told the newspaper that employees will not be required to take any furlough days to make up for the budget shortfall.

January 26, 2010

One of Greenville's oldest independent book shops is closing after 40 years in business. "The Open Book" on South Pleasantburg Drive features a variety of books along with a cafe. The shop's owners said that competition from large chain book stores, online sales and e-readers have made it too difficult to compete. "It's just a hard time for all kinds of media," said Duff Bruce, one of the owners. "I hate for these people to lose their jobs, but we finally got to a point where we didn't feel like we had a choice." A book sale will kick off on Friday and will run until everything is sold. The store employs about 15 people

January 27, 2010

Home Depot Inc., the largest U.S. home-improvement retailer, said Tuesday it is laying off 1,000 staffers as it cuts three pilot programs and cuts some support positions. An internal memo sent to staffers by CEO Frank Blake said about 900 of the cuts stem from consolidating some support functions in its human resources, finance and other divisions. The rest come from the company closing a small-format pilot store in Wilson, N.C.; a temporary hurricane recovery outlet in Waveland, Miss.; and a clearance outlet in Austell, Ga. Blake said in the memo there were no plans to close any full-size Home Depot stores. The cuts are less than 1 percent of Home Depot's more than 300,000 workers. Home Depot spokesman Ron Defeo said as part of the restructuring the company will create 200 jobs in Atlanta, where most human resources administration will be handled, although there will still be a field human resources team. Home Depot, based in Atlanta, and other home-improvement retailers have faced sales declines from the long-standing construction slowdown and consumers holding back on do-it-yourself projects amid worry over jobs and home values. Although the U.S. housing market is stabilizing after a nearly three-year decline, home prices remain far below their peak. Home Depot's profit is about even with last year for the first nine months of the fiscal year, a period that ended Nov. 1, while revenue is down about 9 percent. "This is not a case of the company cutting expenses in reaction to broader economic pressures or our business performance," Blake said in the memo. "We are making prudent structural changes where it makes business sense to consolidate some functions." Defeo said employees were notified of the cuts Tuesday and will receive a minimum severance of 60 days pay from their last day worked. The pilot stores will close over

the next six to eight weeks as merchandise is cleared out. BMO Capital Markets analyst Wayne Hood said as Home Depot's business model evolves, "you expect to look for ways to become more efficient," he said. "If you're opening fewer stores, can you streamline real estate and construction functions? Absolutely." Shares rose 11 cents to \$27.73

February 4, 2010

South Carolina officials said a Colorado company will build a \$68 million plant to make electric buses in Greenville County. Fountain Inn state Sen. David Thomas said Wednesday he hopes that the Proterra LLC plant will lead to suppliers and related industries coming to South Carolina, like when BMW located its first North American plant in the state. U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham said that the Golden, Colo., company is expected to open its plant next year and will build hybrid- and battery-powered buses for mass transit. An official announcement on the plant is expected to be made Thursday. The Greenville News first reported Monday that South Carolina had won the plant. The paper has reported the plant could have as many as 1,300 workers.

February 10, 2010

A company that makes food packaging machines is moving from North Carolina to South Carolina. The Herald of Rock Hill reported Wednesday that Bradman Lake will move from Charlotte to Rock Hill, bringing 50 jobs. Bradman Lake makes machines that do shrink wrapping as well as cartons and other products for the food industry. Both Rock Hill City Council and York County Council have offered tax breaks to encourage the move. The company will move into a building at a 40-acre business park near Interstate 77. Rick Norwood, of the city's economic development office, said having the building available gave the city an advantage.

February 10, 2010

Some businesses owners along Hendersonville's Main Street said that they have been hit hard by the winter weather. Beau Rodriguez, owner of Black Bears Coffee Company, said that he typically sees an increase in business when the cold weather hits, but that this year has been different. Rodriguez said that the snow, ice and cold have kept customers stuck at home, keeping them off Main Street. He said that the back-to-back storms have just about closed down the entire street. "Shops couldn't even open," Rodriguez said. "People couldn't get out of their homes, and then at the end of December. So three times in a month. It's just really, really difficult." Many businesses said that they have had to shorten their hours of operation because of power outages and bad roads.

February 17, 2010

South Carolina's troubled jobless benefits agency would move under the governor's control under legislation gaining key House approval. The House had little debate Wednesday before voting 108 to 1 for preliminary approval. The vote came after a raft of bad news in audits that found the Employment Security Commission didn't do enough to head off its jobless benefits trust fund going broke and that it failed to pay income tax withholdings on benefits. The legislation ends the role of three commissioners who oversee the agency's operations. It creates a panel to hire an executive director who would report to the governor and can be fired at will. The bill is expected to get routine final approval in the House on Thursday.

February 17, 2010

A hydraulic plant in South Carolina is adding 50 jobs in an expansion. The Greenville News reported Thursday that Bosch Rexroth is moving some of its operations from Texas to Fountain Inn. The company said it plans to spend about \$10 million in the expansion. The Fountain Inn plant makes industrial hydraulic piston units and pumps. The expansion will add hydraulic motors used in oil drilling, transportation and other industries. Bosch Group spokeswoman Beck MacDonald said that hiring should begin later this year.

February 24, 2010

Ford Motor Credit in Mauldin said Wednesday that it plans to reduce its staff by 100. Margaret Mellot, a representative of the company, said that the business, located in the Brookfield Centre, will make the cuts through attrition, retirement and separations. She said that employees separating from the company will do so by the end of March. "The changes we are making are a direct response to the projected business conditions," Mellot said. "Customers will see not change in the quality of service they receive." The company currently employs 425 people at its Mauldin location, which serves as a call and support center for Ford Motor Company's financial services. Mellot said that the company will reduce its staff by 1,000 nationwide.

February 24, 2010

South Carolina's top judge said she will have to take drastic measures with the state's courts if lawmakers cut any more money from the judicial budget. Chief Justice Jean Toal spoke Wednesday to a joint session of the General Assembly, telling lawmakers there could be a major breakdown in the state's judicial system if the courts lose more money. In her annual State of the Judiciary address, Toal said she already has stopped judges from traveling and plans on cutting law clerks if funding does not improve. Toal said that she may have to cut the number of weeks court is in session if she loses more money from her budget of around \$50 million. Toal said that would create more backlogs. The chief justice said she would support an increase in filing fees to bring in more money.

March 9, 2010

There has been no hurricane or tsunami, but tourism officials on South Carolina's Hilton Head Island are spending disaster recovery money on advertising to lure travelers. Officials said that they are acting because the economy is a disaster. The Island Packet reported that the town council authorized the local chamber of commerce to spend \$300,000 from a disaster recovery fund, saying the poor economy justifies using the money now. The chamber will spend the money on electronic billboards in Atlanta and on Web sites offering luxury products.

March 10, 2010

South Carolina's unemployment rate tied its record high in January at 12.6 percent. The numbers released Wednesday by the Employment Security Commission represent a slight increase over December's rate, which the agency revised downward from 12.6 percent to 12.4 percent. The number of the state's unemployed rose by about 4,600 people to more than 273,000, a state record. Retail cut 7,700 positions in January as temporary workers were released after the holiday season. Unemployment went up in all of South Carolina's 46 counties. Allendale and Marion counties tied for the state's highest rate, at 24.3 percent. Unemployment was lowest in Lexington County, at 9.4. Economists said last month that the state's chronically high unemployment rate could top 13 percent before it starts to improve.

March 22, 2010

Greenville County's newest movie theater is set to open at the end of April, according to The Greenville News. The Great Escape 14 is located off Fairview Road, which is exit 27 along Interstate 385. The newspaper reported that the theater will offer the latest in 3-D technology. The theater owners told the newspaper that they want to stay ahead of the 3-D craze, since more and more movies are expected to be released that way. The facility will feature four screens specially designed to show 3-D movies. It will also feature an IMAX screen, which boasts a more immersive movie experience for the viewer.

March 23, 2010

Students at Easley High School in Pickens County participated in after-school activities on Tuesday. Sharon Hughes said it keeps her children busy in a positive way, but it is what is happening inside the classroom that really has her concerned. "We need more funding to provide what is necessary for these kids to be educated," Hughes said. Pickens County School Board members voted to cut more than 100 positions for the next school year because they said they are not getting enough money from the state. "We're at their mercy," said Dr. Henry Hunt, the Superintendent of the Pickens County School District. "We anticipate it to be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$7 to \$7.5 million, with a cut to Pickens County." Right now, the school district is working under a \$94 million budget. Take \$7 million from that and they will be operating on an estimated \$87 million budget next school year. Hunt said cutting positions was a difficult decision for the board. "If we don't have that media clerk, or we don't have that extra K-4 class, it will have a negative effect on students," Hunt said. Those cuts include 72

certified positions and 35 teachers. "Technology is going to have to take over," said Ryan Moore, a parent who has children who attend school in Pickens County. Moore said the district should come up with ways to be more innovative like possibly using satellite classrooms. "Instead of teaching 30 kids at a time, they could teach a thousand kids at a time," Moore said. District administrators and parents both agree, they do not want students to suffer, which has become a difficult problem they are all trying to solve. Administrators said they are still waiting on some final numbers from state lawmakers to determine exactly what the budget will look like for the next school year. Hunt said he has already started notifying those employees who will be affected. He said he has to issue contracts to teachers by May 15 for the next school year.

March 23, 2010

An Asheville-area call center said it will be hiring 60 people within the next month. CPU2 in Arden said that the jobs are related to new programs and initiatives by its existing clients. The company's president, Jeff Baker, said that the jobs being added are related to inbound sales and customer service agents. Baker said interested applicants should visit [cpu2.com](http://cpu2.com) to find out more about the available positions.

March 26, 2010

South Carolina's jobless rate remained relatively flat in February, news one expert sees as the beginning of a slow recovery for the state suffering from chronic high unemployment. The Employment Security Commission said Friday that South Carolina's jobless count held steady at 12.5 percent. The agency revised the January unemployment down to 12.5 percent from a record-high 12.6 percent. National unemployment held steady at 9.7 percent. Officials said that all sectors except construction and manufacturing saw growth, with non-farm jobs adding 13,000. Coastal Carolina University economist Don Schunk said that the jobless report is the most positive since the recession began. Schunk said he expects the recovery to be a slow, fragile process, but he is encouraged by the report.

March 29, 2010

Despite a 4-cent decrease in Greenville-area gas prices in the last week, prices at the pump are still nearly 75 cents higher than the same time last year. According to GasBuddy.com, a Web site that tracks gas prices across the country, the average price for a gallon of gasoline in the Greenville area has fallen 4.1 cents to an average of \$2.57 per gallon. That is less than the national average of \$2.79 per gallon. The Web site reported that the decrease over the past week still leaves prices 71.8 cents higher than this time last year and 6.4 cents higher than a month ago. That increase is not far from the pace of the national average of 76.7 cents higher than a year ago. "The pause in oil prices has translated into retail prices that have remained virtually unchanged over the last week," said Patrick DeHaan, senior petroleum analyst for GasBuddy.com. DeHaan said that prices will begin to rise during April and will peak around Memorial Day with the national average around \$3 per gallon.

March 30, 2010

Customers packed Milanos Pizzeria Restaurant in Simpsonville on Monday night. George Papamanolis owns the place, and said it is a family business. "This is not our hobby," Papamanolis said. "This is our love." Soon, Papamanolis could see new faces. About a block away, the Great Escape movie theater will open on April 29. "We're going to get some traffic here," Papamanolis said. "A lot of people are going to get jobs that they need, and I think it's going to be a good thing for Simpsonville." Papamanolis said that the new theater could mean more customers and more business for him. "If it does bring a lot of people here, of course, people are going to come over and try pizza or pasta or whatever they want to eat," said Papamanolis. The new 14-screen theater is the only IMAX facility in the Upstate. It is equipped with 3-D technology and 40-foot-tall screens. It also features stadium seating. An entertainment company out of Indiana is behind the \$14 million project. "This is just a high-quality offering that has not been available here or in this area outside of going up to Charlotte or down to Atlanta," said Simpsonville City Administrator Russell Hawes. Hawes said the new cinematic attraction will help revitalize the area, especially since the theater is located near Interstate 385. "This is an area that is really ripe for development," Hawes said. "We've had a lot of interest from a number of folks who are looking at different types of operations." If the theater translates to more people in the area, then business owners like Papamanolis can serve up what Simpsonville has to offer.

March 31, 2010

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said that cotton is up and tobacco is down in North Carolina for 2010. The agency issued a forecast on Wednesday predicting that North Carolina farmers will plant 540,000 acres of cotton this year, a 44 percent

increase over last year's 375,000 acres. Cotton plantings have declined for three straight years. State Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler said that a drop in cotton supplies has led to higher prices, making the crop more attractive to farmers. Farmers are also expected to cut back on winter wheat and tobacco. The USDA forecasts that roughly 164,000 acres of flue-cured tobacco will be planted in 2010, down about 6 percent from 2009.



*Attachments*



*Quality of Life*

**ADDRESSING PROBLEM/NEED  
FIRSTQUARTER 2010**

Problem/Need: **QUALITY OF LIFE**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
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Sundays 6:00am		MOUNT MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH
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Description: A church service airing Sunday mornings. (1-hour)

Sundays 8:30am		MUD CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
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Description: A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

Sundays 9:30 am		TAYLORS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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Description: A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

Sundays 10:30am		FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Description: A church service that airs every Sunday morning. (30:00)

January 7, 2010

Authorities in South Carolina said that a homeless man who lived in a tent has died from the cold weather. Cherokee County Coroner Dennis Fowler said that the man's body was found Wednesday afternoon in his tent not far from Interstate 85 in Gaffney. Fowler said that the man died from exposure to the cold three or four days ago. Fowler said he is still trying to determine his identity. The coroner said that the man would frequently visit several fast food restaurants in the area, and an employee at one of them found his body after not seeing him for several days. Temperatures have barely climbed above freezing in the area since Saturday.

January 7, 2010

Animal experts said Wednesday that pets have a much lower tolerance for the cold than their human owners. Workers at the Greenville Human Society said that pets should be kept indoors during the winter months. They said that owners should make up a warm bed for their pets so they don't end up sleeping on the cold floor. They said that owners should also keep their pet's hair a bit longer in the winter months. Experts said that it can be extremely dangerous to keep pets in cold cars even for a short time. "In the wintertime, if you leave your animals out there, the car can act as a refrigerator, and can actually freeze animals to death," said Kim Pittman, director of the Greenville Humane Society. Pittman said that keeping any pets, especially cats, in the garage can be dangerous as well. She said that cats tend to climb up in the engines of cars to stay warm. She said that owners should also watch out for antifreeze and coolant puddles in the garage. She said those fluids can be fatal to animals if they drink it.

January 7, 2010

Residents were evacuated out of a Henderson County nursing home on Tuesday night after part of the ceiling fell. Officials at Cherry Springs Village Nursing Home said that the collapse happened at about 11:30 p.m. after some frozen pipes caused the fire sprinkler system to activate. The water caused the ceiling on one of the facility's wings to fall, forcing 21 residents out of their rooms. Officials said that no one was seriously hurt. The residents were transferred to two different nursing home, one in Hendersonville and the other in Brevard, workers said. Crews are working to repair the ceiling quickly as another round of winter weather is forecast for the western North Carolina mountains

January 11, 2010

A new study has found that five times as many high school and college students are dealing with anxiety and other mental health issues as youth of the same age who were studied in the Great Depression era. The findings, culled from responses to a popular psychological questionnaire used as far back as 1938, confirm what counselors on campuses nationwide have long suspected as more students struggle with the stresses of school and life in general. "It's another piece of the puzzle -- that yes, this does seem to be a problem, that there are more young people who report anxiety and depression," says Jean Twenge, a San Diego State University psychology professor and the study's lead author. "The next question is: What do we do about it?"

Though the study, released Monday, does not provide a definitive correlation, Twenge and mental health professionals speculate that a popular culture increasingly focused on the external -- from wealth to looks and status -- has contributed to the uptick in mental health issues. Pulling together the data for the study was no small task. Led by Twenge, researchers at five universities analyzed the responses of 77,576 high school or college students who, from 1938 through 2007, took the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, or MMPI. The results will be published in a future issue of the *Clinical Psychology Review*. Overall, an average of five times as many students in 2007 surpassed thresholds in one or more mental health categories, compared with those who did so in 1938. A few individual categories increased at an even greater rate -- with six times as many scoring high in two areas: -- "hypomania," a measure of anxiety and unrealistic optimism (from 5 percent of students in 1938 to 31 percent in 2007) -- and depression (from 1 percent to 6 percent). Twenge said the most current numbers may even be low given all the students taking antidepressants and other psychotropic medications, which help alleviate symptoms the survey asks about. The study also showed increases in "psychopathic deviation," which is loosely related to psychopathic behavior in a much milder form and is defined as having trouble with authority and feeling as though the rules don't apply to you. The percentage of young people who scored high in that category increased from 5 percent in 1938 to 24 percent in 2007. Twenge previously documented the influence of pop culture pressures on young people's mental health in her 2006 book "Generation Me: Why Today's Young Americans Are More Confident, Assertive, Entitled -- and More Miserable Than Ever Before." Several studies also have captured the growing interest in being rich, with 77 percent of those questioned for UCLA's 2008 national survey of college freshmen saying it was "essential" or "very important" to be financially well off. Experts say such high expectations are a recipe for disappointment. Meanwhile, they also note some well-meaning but overprotective parents have left their children with few real-world coping skills, whether that means doing their own budget or confronting professors on their own. "If you don't have these skills, then it's very normal to become anxious," says Dr. Elizabeth Alderman, an adolescent medicine specialist at Montefiore Medical Center in New York City who hopes the new study will be a wake-up call to those parents. Students themselves point to everything from pressure to succeed -- self-imposed and otherwise -- to a fast-paced world that's only sped up by the technology they love so much. Sarah Ann Slater, a 21-year-old junior at the University of Miami, says she feels pressure to be financially successful, even when she doesn't want to. "The unrealistic feelings that are ingrained in us from a young age -- that we need to have massive amounts of money to be considered a success -- not only lead us to a higher likelihood of feeling inadequate, anxious or depressed, but also make us think that the only value in getting an education is to make a lot of money, which is the wrong way to look at it," says Slater, an international studies major who plans to go to graduate school overseas. The study is not without its skeptics, among them Richard Shadick, a psychologist who directs the counseling center at Pace University in New York. He says, for instance, that the sample data weren't necessarily representative of all college students. (Many who answered the MMPI questionnaire were students in introductory psychology courses at four-year institutions.) Shadick says his own experience leaves little doubt more students are seeking mental health services. But he and others think that may be due in part to heightened awareness of such services. Twenge notes the MMPI isn't given only to those who seek services. Others, meanwhile, say the research helps advance the conversation with hard numbers. "It actually provides some support to the observations," says Scott Hunter, director of pediatric neuropsychology at the University of Chicago's Comer Children's Hospital. Before his current post, Hunter was at the University of Virginia, where his work included counseling a growing number of students with mental health concerns. While even Twenge concedes more research is needed to pinpoint a cause, Hunter says the study "also helps us understand what some of the reasons behind it might be." He notes Twenge's inclusion of data showing that factors such as materialism among young people have had a similar upswing. She also noted that divorce rates for their parents have gone up, which may lead to less stability. Amid it all, Hunter says this latest generation has been raised in a "you can do anything atmosphere." And that, he says, "sets up a lot of false expectation" that inevitably leads to distress for some. It's also meant heartache for parents. "I don't remember it being this hard," says a mother from northern New Jersey, whose 15-year-old daughter is being treated for depression. She asked not to be identified to respect her daughter's privacy. "We all wanted to be popular, but there wasn't this emphasis on being perfect and being super skinny," she says. "In addition, it's 'How much do your parents make?' 'I'd like to think that's not relevant, but I can't imagine that doesn't play a role.'"

January 13, 2010

A Salvation Army chapter in South Carolina said it has received donations from as far away as Maine and California after it was victimized by a hoax. Captain Anthony Juliana said Wednesday the agency had received over \$75,000 from more than 250 donors nationwide. The agency received a check for \$25,000 just before Christmas purporting to be a donation from a local company. The agency deposited it and used it to help about 100 families before discovering it was a fake. The bank called two days before Christmas, saying the check had bounced and the agency was left with less money than expected to help the needy. Juliana said the recent donations include an anonymous wire transfer for the full amount of the bounced check. Officials said there have been no arrests.

January 16, 2010

Upstate Dr. Harold Morse said Friday that the infrastructure of Haiti was shaky even before Tuesday's devastating earthquake. Geologists have said that a magnitude-7.0 earthquake shook the island nation's capital, Port-au-Prince, on Tuesday afternoon, leveling thousands of buildings, including parts of the country's presidential palace. Morse, of Anderson, represents the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina. He said that the diocese has been making mission trips to Haiti for the past 30 years. He said that the group has even helped build and develop a hospital in the town of Cange. The diocese is asking for donations to be made to its "Bread and Water Fund," Morse said. He said that the money will be used to improve the water system and provide medical care to the people of Haiti. Donations can be made to the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina at 115 Marion St., Columbia, S.C. 29201.

January 25, 2010

College and pro teammates of Gaines Adams were gathering Friday for the 26-year-old defensive lineman's funeral. Chicago Bears coach Lovie Smith told mourners that he will never forget the defensive end's humility and work ethic. Former Clemson coach Tommy Bowden delivered the eulogy on Friday and joked that Adams gave him a couple of extra years at the school when his blocked field goal return for a touchdown turned around a 2006 game against Wake Forest. A package of video highlights from Adams' pro and college career was shown during the 90-minute service at Rock Springs Baptist Church in Easley. About 1,000 mourners filled the sanctuary. Adams' casket was at the front of the sanctuary, while video boards showed pictures of his playing days. The coroner said that Adams died Sunday from an enlarged heart in his hometown of Greenwood. Adams was an All-American defensive end at Clemson and selected fourth overall in the 2007 NFL draft by Tampa Bay. But he didn't live up to expectations with the Buccaneers and was traded to the Bears in October for a second-round pick in the 2010 draft.

February 3, 2010

A handful of children were busy working at The Lollipop Shop, of Greenville, Tuesday afternoon. "I hope that you can make it through this hard time," said Christopher Matheny, as he read a note he had written. Inside the shop, there was a lot of sweet stuff going on. "I hope you love the animal," said Matheny, as he continued reading. Matheny, wrote the note to someone he doesn't even know. He and other children want the words along with the stuffed animals to bring comfort to children in Haiti, a country devastated by a massive earthquake. "I did it so they can feel special and so they're not alone," Matheny said. Babette Jones, owner of The Lollipop Shop in downtown, said the idea came straight from her heart. "I just remember as a child what a stuffed animal meant to me, especially, if I had gone through a hard day or had a nightmare," Jones said. "That animal brought comfort to me." For a child who doesn't have anything, Jones said the stuffed animals could mean everything. "I think that when we can come together as people and not look at the differences, we will have a better place," Jones said. Along with writing notes, children also choose an animal to build in their own way, then dress it in a special T-shirt. "I'm stuffing animals for the Haiti children," said Malachi Carnes, as he stuffed a toy lion. "They don't have much stuff and this animal would really help them." Jones said she is working with two orphanages in Haiti. One is called "Planting Peace," which is located in Port-Au-Prince. The other is called "God's Littlest Angels". She said that the goal is to send 20,000 stuffed animals to children and the cost to make an animal and write a note is \$10. Also on those notes is a header with the words "peace and love" written in French.

February 3, 2010

South Carolina first lady Jenny Sanford said that the final blow to her marriage came when racy e-mails between Gov. Mark Sanford and his mistress were published. She told ABC's Barbara Walters in an interview airing Friday on "20/20" that her husband talking about his lover's tan lines and body parts is nothing one ever wants their children to read on the Web. The e-mails were published last year by The State in Columbia. Jenny Sanford said her sons were devastated when they read them. The governor disappeared for five days last summer and returned to reveal an affair with his Argentine mistress. Jenny Sanford has filed for a divorce that will be finalized later this month. The "20/20" interview coincides with the release Friday of Jenny Sanford's memoir, "Staying True".

February 9, 2010

Kathleen Beane started working as an Asheville police officer three years ago. "I'm unable to provide benefits to my family that my co-workers that are in heterosexual relationships are able to provide for their family," Beane said. Beane is gay, and asked Asheville City Council members on Tuesday night to consider same-sex domestic benefits for city employees. She said her partner and 13-month-old daughter are not covered under the current benefits package. "It really does make me feel of less value," Beane said. A proposal, presented by Councilman Gordon Smith, could mean city employees who have same-sex partners could receive health benefits like dental care and health insurance. Others who attended the meeting said they do not agree with the proposal. They said they wanted to know where the money would come from to pay for the benefits extension. "You need to go not to the city to pay for it, you need to go to Blue Cross, Blue Shield and see what they can do," said Mike Frye, an opponent of the proposal. Even members of the clergy took stands for and against the measure. "I'm happy that you have taken this upon yourselves as an opportunity to offer that to these people who are not included in those statements of liberty and justice," said Hamilton Fuller, with The Church of the Advocate, which is an Episcopal ministry. However, Dr. Keith Ogden, pastor of Hill Street Baptist Church, said Asheville is becoming more like San Francisco. "You're simply selling your souls to the devil," Ogden said. "Now, if you want benefits do it the right way. God ordained marriage to be between a man and a woman." Council members voted and decided to review the proposal. Four council members voted in favor of considering same-sex domestic benefits, one councilman was absent and two voted against it. Those two are Mayor Terry Bellamy and Councilman Jan Davis. Both Bellamy and Davis said they were concerned with how benefits would be implemented, regulated and how much it would cost; however, because they were outnumbered, the council will now review the measure. The council will then vote on the proposal at a later date.

February 16, 2010

The Upstate and the broadcasting industry are remembering a radio and TV personality who died Tuesday. Bo Griffin was a Greenville native who made her way to the national spotlight. She became a radio and TV host, business owner and clothing designer. Relatives said she passed away after a short battle with an illness. Griffin was 51. Earlier in her career, Griffin was a freelance reporter for FOX Carolina. Many remembered her as being energetic, bubbly and encouraging to those around her. Most recently, Griffin was guest host of the Game Show Network's "GSN Live." She was also set to do work for the newsmagazine show "Extra." Griffin also designed women's apparel and owned Goddess Boutique in Greenville. She recently sold the business so she could move to Los Angeles. Funeral arrangements have not yet been announced.

February 23, 2010

Main Street in downtown Greenville is adorned with new sidewalks and is spruced up with trees and lighting, but it didn't always look that way. "The store owners, the condo owners, everybody's very satisfied with the way the Main Street has been kept up and maintained," said Peggy Kourlas. She grew up in Greenville and wanted to stay in the area. "It's a wonderful place to live and work," she said. She recently bought a condo located off Main Street which backs up to Brown Street, an area which is about to get a new look. "It's just a fun, entertaining area and we have the best restaurants and great pubs," she said. Greenville City Council members are working on a \$ 3.3 million project which will revitalize several streets that surround Main Street. "The idea is to attract private investment to these areas," Greenville Mayor Knox White said Monday. The project will include rain gardens, trees and benches and the Rhett Street expansion, which is located in the West End area of Greenville. It will also include new sidewalks, trees and lighting on Brown Street, near the Brown Street Jazz club as well as other streets in the area. White said the project is funded through Greenville's tax district. "Under the new law taxes generated

by new development downtown, must stay downtown and be put back into downtown infrastructure. Those funds are not available to spend in other areas of the city," he said. Even though Peggy Kourlas loves her new condo, she's already trying to sell it. She said she's buying into the idea of a new downtown and said the condo is an investment. The project in the Brown Street area has not started yet, but is expected to begin sometime this year.

March 3, 2010

The Greenwood County Council voted on Tuesday night to close bars in the county at 2 a.m., the Index-Journal of Greenwood reported. The ordinance that passed the council by a vote of 5-2 was different from the one that was originally proposed at the start of Tuesday night's meeting. The original ordinance that passed two previous readings of the council would have allowed bars to stay open past 2 a.m. but not sell alcohol between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. However, the newspaper reported that Councilman Rhett Dominick proposed an amendment to the ordinance on Tuesday night that would require bars to close at 2 a.m. That version of the ordinance was the one that passed the council. The same type of proposal failed a Feb. 16 reading.

March 12, 2010

Some Greer residents may have to find a new place to live after city officials condemned the Kudzu Court apartments. Willie Drummond, who moved into the apartments two months ago, said he thought he was getting a good deal since his rent is only \$400 a month. He said that just as soon as he got settled, he got a notice saying he would have to pack up and move again. "They said they fixed the floor," Drummond said. He said he's noticed some water damage on the floor. "They started fixing the floor so I thought there's nothing wrong with this apartment." Phil Rhoads, the Greer Building and Development Standards Director, said there is a lot wrong with eight units at the complex. "You've got broken windows," Rhoads said. "You've got bad electrical, bad plumbing." Rhoads said a letter was sent to the owner, Rodger Wiren, last July citing several violations. "Basically, what we want them to do is bring it up to the minimum code, but in this case, nothing has been done," Rhoads said. Some who live at the apartments said they have complained too. "I have to pour water in the pot to flush the commode and the roaches are bad," said Stanley Miller, who lives in one of the condemned apartments. "Why he can't fix this up?" Wiren told FOX Carolina's Jennifer Phillips in a statement: "I believed I was doing what the city wanted, and I was trying to clean up the place." He also said that he is trying to sell the complex. Rhoads said that code enforcers wrote Wiren a ticket for failure to comply. Residents at the complex have been referred to the Greer Relief Agency and the Housing Authority for assistance.

March 13, 2010

The American Red Cross of Upstate South Carolina reported that 23 families were displaced by an apartment fire in Greenville early Saturday morning. The fire struck the Lakecrest Apartments at 3900 East North Street at about 2 a.m. Nine Red Cross caseworkers were dispatched to the scene to assist the affected families and determine their immediate needs. A shelter was opened at the Greenville Assembly of God church on Haywood Road while caseworkers began making other housing arrangements. Pictured below is Building C. Officials estimated half the building was destroyed. The roof off one end of the building is gone and the fire appeared to have spread through all three floors. The entire building is now roped off and residents are not allowed inside their apartments. Crews are boarding up doors and windows that were broken out during the fire. There is no word yet on the cause of the blaze or a damage estimate. Pam Weeks lived in Building C and said she lost everything in the fire, but on Saturday afternoon, one of the workers found her cat, which she was forced to leave inside. All together, Weeks had four cats. Two of which were thrown from her third-story window during the blaze Saturday. Weeks said firefighters had to rescue her through her third-story window, since she wasn't able to get out her front door. Weeks was reunited with her third cat, named JoJo, on Saturday. Donations for the affected families are being accepted by the American Red Cross, PO Box 9035, Greenville, SC 29604.

March 15, 2010

Change is in the air for Detroit city workers. City employees will be urged not to wear perfume, cologne or aftershave as a result of a settlement in a federal lawsuit. Officials plan to place warning placards in three city buildings. The signs will warn workers to avoid "wearing scented products, including ... colognes, aftershave lotions, perfumes, deodorants, body/face lotions ... (and) the use of scented candles, perfume samples from magazines, spray or solid air fresheners." The employee handbook and Americans with Disabilities Act training also will bear warnings. The Detroit News reports the move stems from a

\$100,000 settlement in a federal lawsuit filed in 2008 by a city employee who said a colleague's perfume made it challenging for her to do her job.

March 16, 2010

An Upstate teen has died nearly three years after being involved in a crash that killed her sister. Chelsey Mitchell, 19, and her sister, 14-year-old Carlyn, were pulling out of their driveway in September 2007 when their car was hit by an asphalt truck. Carlyn was killed in the crash, while Chelsey suffered severe injuries and went into a coma. Investigators said that Chelsey has made improvement and was able to come out of her coma, but never fully recovered from her injuries. She died on Monday morning at her Spartanburg County home. Chelsey Mitchell was able to graduate from Chapman High School. Both girls were cheerleaders at Chapman.

March 16, 2010

A 38-year-old jogger from Georgia is dead after a single-engine plane making an emergency landing hit him as he ran on a South Carolina beach while listening to his iPod. The coroner said Tuesday that Robert Gary Jones of Woodstock, Ga., apparently did not hear the troubled plane that struck him from behind on Hilton Head Island on Monday. The plane had lost its propeller and the pilot's vision was blocked by oil on the windshield. Beaufort County Coroner Ed Allen said that he plans to conduct an autopsy. He said that Jones was married and had two children. Hilton Head fire and rescue spokeswoman Joheida Fister said that the identities of the pilot and a passenger on the Experimental Lancair IV-P plane were not released. They were not injured.

March 22, 2010

The Greenville County Coroner said a Blue Ridge High School student was killed Monday night in a single-car crash. According to the coroner, 19-year-old Josh Bryant died at the scene of the crash on Ridge Road just after 8 p.m. Friends at the scene said Bryant was a senior. The South Carolina Highway Patrol said Bryant was the passenger in the car, and said the teenage driver was airlifted to the hospital. His name has not been released.

March 23, 2010

Greenville residents and officials alike are trying to grab Google's attention for a high-speed Internet experiment by the web giant. Hundreds of people gathered at Falls Park in downtown on Saturday night to form, what organizers are calling, the world's first and largest people-powered Google chain. Crowds gathered in groups and used glow sticks to form the Google logo. The massive undertaking is just one of many efforts to tell Google that Greenville is the right choice for their high-speed experiment. According to the company's Web site, Google will offer Internet speeds up to 100 times faster than many Americans have access to today. It said that the project would service up to 500,000 people by using state-of-the-art fiber technology and will hopefully revolutionize the way people use the Internet. On Monday night, Greenville City Council passed a resolution in support of the Google fiber initiative. It creates a contact person to work with Google on the project. The deadline for cities to apply is March 26. Google will then later name a site, or possibly sites, to install the new super-fast Internet service. Council members said that the convenience of having hyper-Internet would put Greenville at the forefront of attracting new businesses and investments.

March 23, 2010

A prayer made before a recent meeting of the Spartanburg County Council has drawn criticism from some. Mary Miles said that she regularly attends the council meetings. She said that for about a year, the council has begun each of its meetings with a prayer by a chaplain with the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office. Miles said that at last week's meeting, the chaplain was not able to attend and Councilman O'Neal Mintz stepped in to offer the invocation. She said that during his prayer Mintz spoke out against same-sex marriage and abortion. "He was getting into issues of political and socialism that, in my opinion, have not place in County Council," Miles said. Mintz said that he stands by what he said during his prayer. He said that he's a Christian and his faith will always come first. "That's what was on my heart at the time," Mintz said. "I wasn't reading from a script. It's not what I intended to do when I walked in there." Miles said that she believes the councilman's

prayer violated the separation of church and state. The council's chairman said that members will review their prayer policy to see if anything should be changed. He said that a decision will be made next month.

March 25, 2010

During a court hearing Wednesday, the owner of a condemned apartment complex said a judge ordered him to return to court in 30 days to see if he had made progress in cleaning up the property. Last July, code enforcers in Greer wrote the owner, Rodger Wiren, a ticket stating he had violated housing codes with bad plumbing, electrical problems and broken windows at the Kudzu Court Apartments. They said that after none of the repairs was made, they condemned the place a couple of weeks ago. "I can't afford to move anywhere," said Willie Drummond, a resident. Drummond has not lived at the complex long, but said if he is forced to move, he does not know where he will go. He also said he talked to Wiren. "All the tenants around here feel like I do," Drummond said. "They're willing to wait to see what happens. I talked to him a little bit the other day when he was out there looking around and walking around and he said he's going to fix things up. So, I've got to give him a chance." Wiren told FOX Carolina's Jennifer Phillips that he is working on cleaning up the place and trying to do what the city told him to do. "It will pay off," Drummond said. Even though Drummond has some water damage under his floor, he said for the most part, he's satisfied with his apartment. "If he needs help, I told him I'll help him out," he said. "I'm just hanging in there and going with the flow." Code enforcers condemned eight apartments, which is the entire property.

March 31, 2010

For a couple tight weeks after taking in her sixth-grade stepson, Lisa Lewis fretted about how to pay for his school lunches. Unable to find a full-time job, the 37-year-old works part-time at a Kansas City, Kan., daycare, earning minimum wage. On that money alone, she supports herself, her unemployed husband, her stepson and her 11th-grade son. "I sometimes cry myself to sleep wondering how I am going to keep my family fed and things like that," Lewis said. "I'm making it but barely." Her worries were eased when she found out she could get government assistance to pay for the younger boy's meals. Her older son already is part of the subsidized lunch program. In the midst of a blistering recession, more families are flocking to the federal program that gives students free or reduced-priced lunches. Schools are watching for who enrolls in the program because it gives teachers insight into life at home and officials consider it a barometer of poverty. The numbers are telling. During the 2008-2009 school year, about 19 million students received free and reduced lunches, which is 895,000 more than the previous year -- a jump of nearly 5 percent and that greatly outpaced the overall increase in school enrollment, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service. Typically, the increases are about 1 to 2 percent each year. "We have seen record program growth over the past two years as we go through this difficult period," said Jean Daniel, a spokeswoman for the agency. Meanwhile, 78 percent of school nutrition directors surveyed in the fall said they had noticed an increased number of students eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals for the 2009-2010 school year, according to the School Nutrition Association, a nonprofit that represents those who prepare school meals. To qualify for the mostly federally funded school meal program, a family of four can earn no more than \$28,665 for free lunch and \$40,793 for reduced-cost lunches of no more than 40 cents. The guidelines are different in Alaska and Hawaii, where families can earn more and still qualify. As more students get subsidized lunches, some cash-strapped districts say they are struggling to provide the meals with the amount of money the federal government provides. Schools are forced to dip into other parts of their budgets and they're pressing lawmakers for more funding. For all, it's a stark example of how the recession is hurting families. In Nebraska, 67 percent of the Omaha Public Schools' 47,000 students are receiving free or subsidized lunches, up from 62 percent last year. "This year principals have commented that it is the worst they have seen it in terms of families trying to just stay afloat," said district spokeswoman Luanne Nelson. "There has been a marked decline in family income." The federal government picks up most of the tab for the subsidized meal program, with some states kicking in a small amount. The money is supposed to cover lunches, but the School Nutrition Association said many districts have to squeeze funds for the meals out of other areas of their budgets. "The reimbursement rate for school lunches hasn't kept pace with the cost of goods," said Lynn McCawley, a spokeswoman in Prince George's County Public Schools in Maryland. "This is especially true as we focus on selecting healthier school lunch choices. As the quality goes up so does the price." However, the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service said its most recent analysis, released in April 2008 and based on data from the 2005-06 school year, found that the reimbursement rate covered the cost of meals. The rate is recalculated each year to help payments keep pace with costs. To help schools further, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is urging Congress as it prepares to reauthorize the Child Nutrition Act to dole out more money. Regardless of whether districts are losing money or breaking even, they are watching the subsidized meal numbers with interest because of what it signifies their students face at home. "Families are struggling more and more," said Jennifer Adach,



of the Washington-based Food Research and Action Center, who notes that demand for food stamps is also up. In the Columbus, Ohio, area, about half the students in South-Western City Schools district receive subsidized meals, and officials say they try to ensure the meals are very nutritious. "It drives us to make sure we are serving fresh fruits and vegetables every day and whole grains, foods that they might not have access to at home," said Beth Glitt, who oversees the district's foodservice department. And when life is not stable at home, everything changes. Superintendent Mike Mathes, whose district is on the outskirts of Topeka, Kan., said one of the most heartbreaking stories he has come across is 11 students from three families crowded into a rental home and a trailer parked outside. "The number one priority in those kids' lives isn't school, it's surviving," Mathes said. His staff received training on teaching students in poverty as the district's free and reduced-price numbers grew. Among other things, teachers are being advised to think hard about asking students to bring \$5 for a field trip or \$10 for a class T-shirt. "Now with a third of our kids living in poverty," he said, "they may not have \$5."